PROGRESS OF NORTH CAROLINA TOWNS IN 1905.

GASTONIA.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Gastonia, Jan. 22.—Although the progress of Gastonia has been phenomenal and substantial, it has not been due to any boom or revival of trade. The growth and expansion of Gastonia has been due entirely to the town's own existing conditions. The music made by the saw, hammer and trowel, mingled with the hum of increasing spindles and flying shuttles, has been heard the entire year round. Gastonia has a population of 9,000, is located almost in the center of Gaston county at the junction of two railroads, has one of the best systems of graded schools in the State, electric lights, water works that afford an abundant supply of pure water, and an intensely moral population. Gastonia has no dispensaries, no bar rooms, no junk shops or ill smelling streets.

The commercial progress of Gastonia has advanced with measured tread the entire year. Beginning the first business day of the year and continuing until the last, its progress has been one of clock-like precision. During the year 1905 Gastonia has built two cotton mills and chartered another, two banks have been added, a building and loan association, a wood fiber plaster factory and many other enterprises of great importance that the town did not have in 1904. The Gray Cotton Mill has been completed and is now about ready to begin operation. The officers of the mill are G. A. Gray, president and treasurer; L. L. Jenkins, vice president, and J. H. Separk, secretary. The mill, which is equipped with the latest product of the Whitin Machine Shops, has 10,240 spindles. Electricity will be the motive power for the machinery. This will be furnished by a Westinghouse-Parsons steam turbine of 450 horse power, connected with which is a Westinghouse generator of 450 kilowatts. Water tube boilers of 150 horse power each will furnish steam for the turbine, which in turn, will furnish the power for a motor in each department of the mill. The Gray mill has a capital stock of $175,000. Fine yarns, Nos. 40s to 80s, ply and single, will be manufactured. The plant is altogether the most thoroughly equipped cotton mill in the entire country.

The Modena Mills have compited an extension to their plant, adding 8,000 spindles, making a total of 17,500 for this mill. This part of the Modena mills is known as Mill No. 3, is fitted with the latest labor-saving machinery, and will produce fine yarns. It was built from the surplus and the capital stock was not increased. J. O. White is president, J. H. Craig, vice president, and H. B. Moore, secretary and treasurer. The mill is already in operation.

The charter for the Clara Manufacturing Company has been granted, to have a capital stock of from $75,000 to $100,000 with the privilege of increasing to $200,000. The incorporators of this enterprise are Messrs. C. B. Armstrong, W. N. Davis, G. A. Gray, W. T. Rankin, R. P. Rankin and S. S. Shuford. The company has closed a deal for the site on the C. & N. W. Railway, just south of town, and the work of erecting the building will begin in the early spring. The mill will have at least 5,000 spindles and will turn out fine yarns.

The Citizens National Bank, which began business in January, 1905, with a capital stock of $50,000, has made a most promising record during the first year of its existence. The gradual increase in business, which has been made by this bank shows that its organization was not mere speculation. The deposits, which were $55,000, at the close of the first day's business, have grown to $188,256.84. With total resources of $318,611.12, this bank is today one of the leading commercial institutions in Gaston county. The officers of the bank are R. P. Rankin, president, C. N. Evans, vice president; and A. G. Myers, cashier.

The Love Trust Company, which began business later in the year, has about the same record. In addition to doing a regular banking business, the company does a large business in real estate, insurance, trusts and cotton. The capital is $50,000, the officers are John F. Love, president, Edgar Love, vice president, and Robert A. Love, secretary and treasurer.

The Gastonia Mutual Building and Loan Association, which was organized in the first part of the year, has done an excellent business. Since organization, it has aided to the building of 19 homes. At present it has loans aggregating $19,000. The officers of the association are S. N. Boyce, president; J. E. Page vice president, and C. B. Armstrong, secretary and treasurer.

The Gastonia Plaster Factory, for the making of wood fiber plaster, is another enterprise of great commercial importance, which had it beginning during the past year. The factory is situated on the C. & N. W. Railway, north of town, and is now in operation, making full time with a great demand for its products. The capital stock is $10,000. J. B. Beal is president, S. B. Barnwell, vice president and secretary, and J. L. Beal, treasurer and manager.

During the year a library, with more than 1,000 volumes, has been established in commodious quarters with a librarian always in attendance and with a reading room with tables covered with the leading papers and magazines. The library is not restricted to the residents but can be used by non-residents as well. The average monthly circulation of books since organization has been 150 volumes.

The Gastonia Commercial Club has been organized and has fitted up quarters over the First National Bank with every convenience. During the six months of its existence it has nearly doubled its membership. The officers of the club are A. G. Mangum, president; E. G. McLurd, secretary and treasurer, and G. W. Wilson, solicitor.

A number of other enterprises have been started during the year. Among the most important ones are A. R. Hankin & Co., wholesale produce; the Crown Bottling Company and many others.

Gastonia has also aided materially in carrying the $300,000 road bond election for the establishment of good roads in Gaston county.

The main advancement in Gastonia during the year was the building of a great number of dwellings. More than 150 homes have been built during the past year, they range from the three room dwelling to the most pretentious mansions. First among the handsome residences are those of W. J. Clifford on Marietta street, W. T. Wilson on Franklin avenue, Dr. L. N. Glenn and Mr. Parks Hufstetler on York street which cost from $8,000 to $12,000.

WAKE FOREST.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Wake Forest, Jan. 15.—The town of Wake Forest, along with the college, has been in a most prosperous condition for some years, but the year 1905 has probably been marked with more prosperity than any previous year. There has been much building and the business firms seem to have been doing a good business.

The building of new residences the past year has, no doubt, been more than at any time previous. Mr. and Mrs. John M. Brewer have built a cottage and moved into it. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Medlin have completed their two-story residence, and Mr. Medlin has completed his storehouse and installed a stock. The property has otherwise been improved. The Wake Forest Foundry Company has built a two-story dwelling near their foundry. Mr. J. H. Lee has remodeled his residence. Prof. John B. Carlyle has recently erected a number of small residences for rent. Mr. Moses Fort has also had a number of small residences built, which are being rented. Only a few months ago it was said that there was not a vacant house in the town and several families were for awhile prevented from moving here until more could be built. Mr. W. M. Dickson is contemplating building a handsome dwelling. Mrs. S. B. Turner has bought from Miss Addie Wait the residence in which Miss Wait has been living. Mrs. Turner and family moved in some time ago.

The W. B. Dunn Foundry Company and the Wake Forest Foundry Company have consolidated and are doing business under the name of the last mentioned firm. They are doing a thriving business. Prof. Benjamin F. Sledd has recently built a two-story building, the first story of which is being used by the new firm of J. M. Brewer, Jr., & Company, who have put in a new stock of groceries. The upper story of the last named building is being used for offices. During the first of the year changes in and additions to the depot were made monthly. The postoffice has recently been moved into its new quarters on Pennsylvania avenue. A nice brick building of two rooms was built by Judge Timberlake and the office was moved into one of the rooms. The office is newly equipped throughout with modern fixtures and is one of the most noticable changes the new year has brought about. The other room of the postoffie building will be used for a drug store, although it has not yet been decided who will open up the new store.

The Bank of Wake has increased its stock $5,000 during the year, and now has a stock of $15,000. It is in a most properous condition and has recently purchased a lot, just across the street from the old Holding drug store, on which it will probably erect a building in the near future. The Royall Cotton Mill, located just north of town, has changed superintendents, Mr. George H. Greason, of Mississippi, being the present superintendent. The mill will increase its power in a few weeks and is in a most prosperous condition.

The college is the nucleus of the town and its prosperity is, of course, felt by the town. The year 1905 has been the most prosperous in the history of the college. The enrollment was larger than in any previous year and a number of improvements have been made in the way of new buildings.

Plans are now on foot to build an infirmary on the northwest part of the campus, to the rear of the library building. This will be a useful addition to the institution.

The new alumni building, which is the most attractive building on the campus, is nearing completion. The outside work has already been completed. It is three stories high, of brick, and finished on the outside with granite and white pressed brick. There are twelve lecture room and four laboratories, together with professors' rooms. The rooms have a good pitch and will be sealed with metal ceiling. The hall of the first floor will be covered with Greesboro tiling. This hall is 16 by 70 feet and will contain ten or twelve tablets. Conspicuous in the hall will be a hand-some portrait of Dr. William Gaston Simmons, the first professor of science in the college, a man of wonderful versailty, being able to teach almost any department of the college. The second story has a balcony in the front. Professor J. B. Carlyle raised the money for the building and Professor J. H. Gorrell has had supervision of the building. Prof. Carlyle labored twelve weeks raising the money for the building, at the rate of $1,000 a week. The money has been raised principally from the alumni, while a good number of friends of the college have made contributions. The building is situated on the west side of the campus. Much credit is due Professors Carlyle and Gorrell for their faithful work. The Biblical Recorder says: "By all means we should not fail to give honor to Messrs. Carlyle and Gorrell for their free contributions to our denomination in 1905. Professor Carlyle left his class-room and his genial home for the life of a pilgrim and a money raiser; and thanks to his gifts and his energy and his large acquaintances in North Carolina, the money for the splendid biological building (alumni) was raised. The work was done by individual appeal rather than by church collections. Dr. Gorrell remained at Wake Forest and superintended the construction of the building, and the low cost and excellent work are in no small degree due to him. To these brethren from the brotherhood and especially from the sons of Wake Forest, enduring thanks."

HICKORY.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Hickory, Jan. 15.—The year 1905 recorded the greatest growth in the city's history, surpassing all previous records, is an evidence of the substantial progress and prosperity of her industrial upbuilding. Aside from the several store buildings on Lincolnton street, there were erected on the blocks north and east of Park Place numerous business houses of the most modern architecture, all of which were completed during the last year. I regret that, in this brief sketch, I am unable to speak individually of the many beautiful residence that have been erected and remodeled during the year 1905, but with all the new homes added to the residential portion of the town, there is not a vacant house to be had. There is a great demand for modern cottages, especially along the water and sewerage lines. The municipal authorities have done themselves proud in completing and equipping one of the most modern water plants in the South, with an expenditure of $110,000, which is already self-sustaining, made so by the cheap mode of operations furnished by a Latta & Martin pump, of home manufacture.

One of the largest recently completed industrial enterprises is the Hickory Ice & Coal Storage Company's plant, with a tonnage capacity of 20,000 managed by E. Lyerly, one of Hickory's capitalists and young business men. The Geitner Tanning Company, which has recently erected a large, new brick building at a considerable cost, deserves special mention, because of its large output and fine quality of leather made which has gained a reputation far and near. The diversified manufacturing enterprises, some of which have added more floor space, made good showings the past year, clearing good dividends.

Hickory's banking capital, which flows into the stream that turns the wheel of progress, is greatly in the wheel of progress, is grealty in excess of former years. The banks have done much for their patrons, as well as netting the stockholders handsome dividends. The recent statement of the First National, which pays a semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent, makes an unusually good showing. It has a capital of $75,000 and deposits of $261,347.38, having doubled its business in five years. Its total resources are $417,233.23. The officers are: A. A. Shuford, president; J. D. Elliott, vice president; K. C. Menzies, cashier; J. L. Cilley, teller; directors, A. A. Shuford, J. D. Elliott, Clement Geither, K. C. Menzies and W. B. Menzies.

The Hickory Banking & Trust Company, which is only two years old, has a capital of $35,000 and deposits of $85,611.93. Its resources are $127,790.94. It has recently moved into its modern and beautifully fitted home, centrally located, opposite North Park Place, which has been fitted throughout with the conveniences pertaining to the banking business. Its officers are J. F. Abernethy, president, G. N. Hutton, vice president; J. W. Blackwelder, cashier, J. L. Abernethy, assistant cashier; M. H. Yount, attorney; directors, J. F. Abernethy, G. N. Hutton, J. A. Martin, H. E. Combs, J. A. Lents, S. E. Killam, Dr. W. L. Abernethy, L. R. Whitener, M. H. Yount.

Aside from Hickory's already handsome houses of worship, the Lutheran and Presbyterian denominations completed last year two of the finest church edifices in North Carolina, at a cost of $14,000 each. The year's freigh tonnage and postoffice receipts speak volums, both showing great increase. From the rapid growth of postoffice receipts here, it will not be long before the town can be classed as a first class postoffice, which will put her in line for a free city delivery service. It is hoped that the purchase by a local syndicate of Hickory's large and fine unoccupied water power at the Horseford bridge will be the means of putting the shoals to work, which will add greatly to the city's wealth. The beginning, during the fall months of the year, of the gigantic enterprise which means much to Hickory and her surrounding country was the surveying of the line and the making of the maps preparatory to the building of the Hickory Electric Railway, which will require an output of $180,000, covering a trackage length of 15 miles.

REIDSVILLE.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Reidsville, Jan. 22.—The commercial development of Reidsville along every line of business activity during the past year will compare favorably with that of any town of its size and resources in North Carolina. No period of the town's history has been so marked by real and substantial improvements.

Reidsville's business interests are prosperous and it is easy to see that there is nothing superficial in the present industrial development. One of the best evidences to be seen that the town is really in a prosperous condition is the large increase in bank deposits. The number of new enterprises which are continually being launched, the excellent trade done by old established firms and new ones alike, the large number of newcomers who have made Reidsville their home during the past year, the difficulty of securing homes here in spite of the fact that many buildings have been erected during 1905; all of these things prove beyond all questioning that Reidsville is forging to the front with no uncertain speed. The merchants say their sales are away ahead of what they were in past years. The manufacturers likewise find their volume of trade running ahead of any corresponding period.

Buildings are going up almost all over the town; houses are rented before they are completed. There is not a desirable business location in the town that is available at this time. More new stores will be constructed this year.

As to real estate, there is no boom. No one seems to be pushing its sale, but it is selling all the same, and at advanced prices. The price on good dwelling lots has gone up, because the lots are in demand for homes by bona fide residents. While the price is still reasonable, yet the steady and marked advance which has taken place in the last six months demonstrates the fact that people are beginning to realize that Reidsville is to be a town of considerable proportions in the near future, and that it is important that they avail themselves of the present reasonable prices for home sites.

As to the future of Reidsville it is no longer a debatable question as to the permanent growth of the town; it is only a question as to how rapid that growth will be. The present indications justify the prediction that its growth will be marked without any great boom. This is all a reasonable business man can ask for or demand.

Over eight million pounds of leaf tobacco are sold annually on the Reidsville market. This enormous production is raised within a comparatively short radius of the city. There are several planters within a short distance of Reidsville who produce in the neighborhood of a thousand pounds to the acre. This leaf is sold at a price to guarantee that there is money in tobacco growing in Rockingham county. There are very few farmers who devote their exclusive time to raising tobacco, yet there are many who have made considerable money growing the yellow leaf and are constantly increasing their acreage. The Reidsville market has an able corps of bidders, the American Tobacco Company being represented by three buyers.

The several tobacco manufacturing plants here find it impossible to secure enough leaf in Reidsville and they have placed buyers on a number of markets in Virginia and the Carolinas. The largest concerns manufacture from three to five million pounds each, each employing from three to five hundred workmen. Only a few days ago one of these plants shipped a solid train load of thirty-five cars of manufactured tobacco. Five smoking tobacco factories have made this one of the largest smoking tobacco markets in America. Two plants handle cigars. The tobacco business in Reidsville has grown to enormous proportions.

The Edna Cotton Mills, employing five or six hundred operatives, is one of the strongest enterprises in the city.

The Reidsville Fertilizer Company has built up a tremendous trade on its celebrated brands of fertilizer.

J. H. Walker & Co's. mammath saw mill and flour and grist mill give employment to a large number of workmen who make good and substantial citizens.

Reidsville was the thriving town she now is before she had electric lights and water-works. There were those who favored a system of lights and water that could be put in on a cheap basis; but the business element of the town detrmined on a system that would be permanent and equal to the demands for years to come. The town now owns an excellent plant just beyond the city limits. This is used for lighting the streets, residences and business houses with a surplus which is furnished to others at a reasonable rate. At the same time a complete water-works system was installed and pipes are laid along all principal streets. The water supply is secured from artesian wells, so located that in case of failure a stream of water can be turned into the largest well through pipes. A pump of the latest design forces the water into the city reservoir at the rate of several hundred gallons per minute.

The streets of the town are in keeping with the progress that has been made here, all of the principal thoroughfares have been paved or macadamized. Main street for a distance of between two and three miles was macadamised the past year.

The town has splendid hotel facilities, the Rockingham and Huffines being as good as any between Washington and Atlanta. The Huffines has recently changed hands and its increase of patronage has been phenomenal under the new management.

Reidsville people have not been looking alone after the material and industrial side of life; though there has been great advance along these lines there are hopeful indications of still greater progress. They have built and equipped a modern school building of good proportions and elegant design. This has been done at considerable cost, but the expenditure has been cheerfully made. For years past the people have taken a lively interest in their graded schools, and it is believed that as the town advances in material progress their interest in education will grow at an increased ratio. About 1,200, or more, students attend the graded schools, and a goodly number are enrolled at the Reidsville Seminary. Supt. Hayes during the past year has gone to considerable expense in remodeling and enlarging the buildings and has built up a flourishing school.

HIGH POINT.

Correspondence of The Observer.

High Point, Jan. 22.—The year 1905 was a great 12 months for High Point, wonderful strides being made along all lines which go to make progress and prosperity. The big increase in population, taxable property, and the large number of factories and other buildings erected during the year, has been a source of pride to the citizens and points to greater things for High Point in 1906, as it is a conceded fact that High Point has set a pace in the industrial world that few towns in the State can keep up with. Almost each week witnesses the launching of some enterprise that adds greatly to her wealth and reputation.

A number of new factories have been built during the year, namely: The Hill Veneer Company, Carl Hill, manager; capital stock, $15,000; a line of fine quartered oak veneers, etc. are manufactured. The Kearns Upholstering Company; Jim W. Kearns, secretary and treasurer; capital stock, $10,000; a general line of upholstered goods is manufactured. The Globe Parlor Furniture Company; S. H. Tomlinston, president; J. R. Rountree, secretary and treasurer; Allen Tomlinson, general manager; capital stock, $15,000; manufactures a fine and medium line of parlor and house furniture. The High Point Upholstering Company; Percy V. Kirkman, manager; capital stock, $5,000; general upholsterers and manufacturers of furniture. The Southern Machine Works; Messrs. Hurdis Burns and George F. Wilson, owners and managers; capital, $5,000; general machinists and foundrymen. The High Point Piano and Organ Company; capital stock, $50,000 authorized and $25,000 paid in; W. G. Shipman, manager; J. K. Link, president; C. V. Craigen, vice president. The High Point Roll and Panel Company; John W. Clinard, manager; capital stock, $15,000; oak veneers are manufactured. The High Point Moulding Company; capital, $15,000; president, W. F. White; secretary and treasurer, R. A. Wheeler; picture mouldings, decorative mouldings, etc., are manufactured. The Dixie Milling Company; capital, $10,000; roller mill with latest machinery. The Haywood Roll and Panel Company; manufacturers of veneers and accessories; capital stock, $10,000; J. P. and D. S. Haworth, owners. The enlarging of the silk mill, owned by Messrs. Stehli & Company, of New York, $50,000. The High Point Electric Supply Company; Mr. Levi Johnson and others, owners; capital stock, $12,000; do a general electrical business and deal in supplies. The Jamestown Concrete Works (a High Point concern) located midway between Jamestown and High Point; authorized capital stock, $125,000; Messrs. George Penny, H. C. Pitts and W. G. Ragsdale owners; manufactures concrete blocks, bricks, arches and any and everything made out of concrete; the Peoples Realty Company; R. Homer Wheeler, secretary and treasurer; J. H. Millis, president. The High Point Real Estate & Trust Company; George Penny, secretary and treasurer; H. C. Pitts, president; The North State Telephone Company; capital, $20,000; W. H. Ragan, president; E. D. Steele, secretary and treasurer; J. F. Hayden, manager. The High Point Savings and Trust Company; S. H. Hilliard, president; Ed. L. Ragan, cashier; capital stock authorized, $60,000; paid in, $25,000. The High Point Hub & Handle Company; capital, $5,000; manufactures handles for forks, rakes and shovels, and hubs; Messrs. D. O. Cecil and T. Y. Hamilton, owners and managers. The changing of the title of the new National Bank of High Point to that of the First National Bank of High Point, with a capital of $100,000; W. J. Armfield, Sr., president; E. M. Armfield, cashier. The Hammond Furniture Company; manufacturers of kitchen safes and tables; capital, $3,000. An addition to the Kearns Furniture Company; $5,000. An addition to the Columbia Furniture Company, $7,500. The Eagle Furniture Company, $25,000; Charles Ragan, secretary and treasurer. An addition to Snow Lumber Company, $10,000. In all there were $150,000 or more spent in new factories and additions to factories during 1905.

In round numbers there were 400 dwellings erected, representing an expenditure of half a million dollars. Three churches were built costing $15,000; school houses, one with fixtures, $20,000; banks, one $15,000; stores, eight, $40,000; hotels two, $60,000.

Two insurance companies, life and fire, were established with capital of $200,000. The Carolina Life Insurance Company; W. H. Ragan, president; The North Carolina Fire Insurance Company; M. J. Wrenn, president; E. M. Armfield, treasurer of both companies.

The Peoples Building and Loan Association, J. A. Lindsay, secretary, issued its eighth series; the High Point Perpetual Building & Loan Association, Charles Hauser, secretary, four series; the Mechanics' Perpetual Building and Loan Association of High Point, E. M. Armfield, secretary, in its first series. Altogether, there are some 5,000 shares issued among the three building and loan associations. To those institutions High Point owes much of her marvelous growth.

The taxable property of the city has increased 15 per cent. during 1905. The increase in population has been 1,500 people and a doubling since 1900, when the government census was taken. The increase in manufactured products is 25 per cent. The increase in school attendance was 250. Receipts at the postoffice show a gain of $3,121.94, or 17 per cent. The receipts for 1905 were $21,834.73, and for 1904 $18,712.79.

The High Point and Winston Inter-Urban street railway was started by the laying of rails in the city. Already about $20,000 has been expended in material and surveys and several hundred thousand dollars will be required to complete the work.

Ten miles of cement walk have been put down, costing close to $75,000. Eigh miles of granolithic and macadam road have been laid, costing over $100,000. The amount of increase in the volume of business among the banks was about $400,000. The cash receipts at the freight depot were $7,000 a week, or over, $350,000 during the year. The amount of business done among the combined factories is given at $3,000,000.

It has been estimated that three-fourths of the population of High Point has money in bank and building and loan associations or, in other words, in safe keeping. The High Point bank and trust companies have 4,000 depositors; the building and loan associations have 5,000, 2,000 of whom are not included among the bank depositors, leaving 7,000 High Point people who are saving their money in one way or another.

The city is wide awake on educational lines and made great progress in this respect during the past year, having among the best schools in the South.

This briefly sums up some of the business and other things done in High Point during 1905. It is almost impossible to name everything in an account like this, but this is enough for one year, and, if anyone or anything has been overlooked, it is a pardonable error.

SANFORD.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Sanford, Jan. 22.—The year just closed was one of substantial progress and prosperity for this town. A resume of the more important features of advancement is as follows:

A bond issue of $10,000 was made for the erection of a graded school building; the town's water system has received an extension amounting to $10,000; the Sanford Real Estate, Loan and Insurance Company was organized with an authorized capital of $50,000; the Sanford-Jonesboro Telephone Company now has first-class exchanges in the two towns, and several rural lines and long distance connections.

H. M. Weller, of Montgomery, Penn., organized the Sanford Manufacturing Company and purchased the large furniture plant, which was idle, and the same is being operated successfully. The plant is worth $20,000.

The two banks have had a most successful year, deposits reaching the highest point since the establishment of either.

The several manufacturing establishments, owned by companies, show substantial dividends, while the private concerns have had a good year.

The Atlantic & Western Railroad has been extended, via Jonesboro, to Broadway, six miles, and is to be built further.

Mr. McL. McKeithen has erected a beautiful building 48 by 90 feet, costing $6,500, with store rooms on the first floor and professional offices above. S. M. Jones has also erected a similar building, to which the postoffice will be moved.

The Round Pine Lumber Company was organized.

A handsome church building by the Christian denomination was completed and dedicated.

A great many residences were erected, and yet the demand for them cannot be supplied.

SPRAY.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Spray, Jan. 22.—Footprints of 1905 in Spray may be epitomized in the phrase, 'New shoes all the year." By associating closely the phrase with the intent of the article, the reader can, with ease, mentally picture what has transpired here during the past 12 months. The sound of the hammer and the saw have been incessant or contemporaneous with the brick mason's call for "more mud."

Several very handsome residences have gone up in the residential portions of the community and the list of tenant's houses goes well up in the figures. Education has left a most pronounced and well-developed footprint in the shape of a Baptist college, which has enrolled more than 200 young men and young women, who are well led under the directorship of President Beam. The public schools of Spray, under Prof. Deshaze, continue to grow and wax stronger each year. An average of 250 pupils was the record for 1905.

Commercially, as ever, Spray has been on the alert. The German-American Company, the giant venture of the year, is now erecting a building, which is almost complete, embodying 130,000 square feet of floor space. Textile machinery will be installed which will produce a class of goods distinct from anything that is now being made in the South. The Imperial Company, which has been in an embryonic state for some years, has fully matured. This company will also manufacture textile goods.

A very elegant suite of offices has been erected on Rhode Island Heights by the Spray Woolen Mills and the Rhode Island Mills, which are winning their way. The building is of the metal lathe and cement construction, which is fire-proof.

On the whole, the year has been a busy one with Spray. As our grizzled hero of Gettysburg, Pete Robinson, says, "Sense de Lord and Mister Mebane has got together there has pointedly bin a monster stirrin' time in old Splashy."

SCOTLAND NECK.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Scotland Neck, January 22.—The improvement and development in Scotland Neck during 1905 were not of the "boom" kind and so attracted no great attention, but the town made good strides in several particulars. To the casual observer two serious fires during the year seemed to affect a good part of the progress made, but despite the fires, the town has never been in better condition than it is to-day.

One fire occurred in March and the other in August, both on Main street, where a number of small business houses were burned. On the site of the first fire Mr. J. W. Mady has erected a substantial brick building of two stories, but the site of the second fire still remains a vacant lot. As a result of the fire, however, Messrs. Claude Kitchen and S. J. Stern have erected a substantial brick building across the street. The building contains six store rooms, some of which are occupied.

There has been considerable improvement in the various manufacturing plants. About $15,000 has been added to the Scotland Neck Cotton Mills in enlarged buildings and improved machery, and the plant is now one of the most progressive and best equipped hosiery mills in the country.

The Crescent Hosiery Mills have also been improved 25 per cent and the oil mills improved 10 per cent.

The Carolina Telephone Company's exchange has been overhauled and greatly improved and the town's electric light plant nearly doubled its service during the last year.

Morrisett Brothers established the Eclipse Suspender Company during the year, which is quite an addition to the manufacturing industries here.

Mr. S. B. Kitchen located a lumber plant just outside of town, and the Bowens-White Lumber Company's plant, which was burned, has been rebuilt.

There were several new dwellings erected in town last year, some of them handsome, and three new dwellings are new being erected. Several new business concerns opened here during the year, notably a large, handsome store which went into a new, hansome building just a week or two before the opening of 1905, and a large stock stable was opened during the year.

All the mercants had a busy holiday trade and some said they had never seen such heavy trade in the history of the town.

The graded schools have grown in favor and usefulness, some 300 children being enrolled. The town has been under prohibition for a year, and the good order which has prevailed has been quite marked. While come would say that the town lost business by prohibition, many of the best business men say they do not desire saloons again.

During the year the new enterprises completed and commenced aggregate $65,000 to $75,000 and the prospect for increased business is good. Many of the farmers in the community now carry good bank accounts and they feel more independent than ever before.

GOLDSBORO.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Goldsboro, Jan. 22.—The progress of Goldsboro during the past year has been very gratifying to our people along the lines of business, manufacturing, education and building. The real estate improvements have made a decided change in the town's appearance. Many large brick buildings, suitable for stores and dwellings, have been erected. All of these are handsome, well built structures, especially the stores, which have plate glass fronts and are two stories high, with a few exceptions. These were all occupied as soon as completed and many more are going up. The demand exceeds the supply.

The city has a new industry which has just started, that of the A. T. Griffin Manufacturing Company, which turns out almost anything made of wood. This concern cuts logs, makes shingles, doors, blinds, runs a planing mill and also makes tables. This, together with Goldsboro's numerous other manufacturing enterprises, has been unable to fill all orders, even with the running af plants both night and day.

The Goldsboro Buggy Company, which turns out some of the best buggies and other vehicles in the South, though young in business, cannot meet the demands of the trade.

The three large brick plants are unable, and have been all the past year, to fill all orders. The demands for their makes of brick have been wonderful. They could not even supply the demands for brick from our immediate section.

The Goldsboro Furniture Manufacturing Company has built several additions to its already mammoth factory and will build more. Orders for its makes of furniture come from all parts of the country.

It is useless to speak of our cotton mills, oil mills, lumber mills, belt factories and many others; we will simply say: "They have done exceedingly well."

The value of lots and property around town has advanced 50 to 100 per cent, with a ready buyer for anything offered.

The attendance of both the white and colored graded schools shows a marked increase over last year. Our banks have shared, as well as assisted, in this prosperity, as their recent statements show. A word of appreciation is due the city aldermen, public spirited citizens, and our chamber of commerce, which, by its diligent efforts, has secured a number of decided and valuable improvements.

Goldsboro is just entering upon her second two years of absolute prohibition and her people have recently voted upon that issue for a second time and sustained it by an overwhelming majority. This means that prohibition is a good thing, when intelligently and fearlessly enforced. During the past two years, under prohibition, Goldsboro has advanced wonderfully along all lines of industrial development.

Real estate has gone up to phenomenal values. New business houses have been constructed, where vacant lots once were, and these are occupied by prosperous firms. Better conditions than ever before prevail in the homes of the working classes. Children go in larger numbers, and better clad, to our public schools. Sobriety prevails, and industry makes glad the hearts of the happy people. Were it not so, prohibition would not have stood the recent test at the ballot box so triumphantly.

LOUISBURG.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Louisburg, Jan. 15.—The year 1905 was the most progressive and prosperous of the town's existence. From an ordinary county town in 1904, the past year leaves us a young city, with all its conveniences and modern improvements, with waterworks, electric lights, two good hotels and a hustle and push that far exceeds other places in the State with much larger population.

Among the enterprises and improvements of 1905 are: Waterworks and sewerage plant, with the latest improved system of filtsation, costing $65,000; electric lighting plant, $10,000; graded school building, $10,000; Allen Brothers' brick warehouse, $8,000; Bickett & Yarborough office building, $3,100; C. B. Cheatham tobacco factory, $1,800; McKinney Brothers' sales stables, $900; Stokes' & Furgurson's double stores, $3,100; S. S. Meadows' brick building, $3,000; H. P. Hill's sales stables with buggy and wagon house, $5,000; addition to J. R. Collie's residence, $500; addition to C. B. Cheatham's residence, $325; addition to W. T. Hughe's factory, $450; residence of Dr. S. P. Burt, $3,250.

Last, but not least, the old year closed with the inauguration of an up-to-date fire department, with Mr. William Bailey as chief. The organization has been perfected and the company will have about 50 members. A neat structure has been built to house the apparatuses.

Among the important happenings was the increase of the capital stock of the Louisburg Wagon Company to $100,000, authorized. This company has been incorporated with some of the leading business men of the town as stockholders and cannot supply the demand for its wagons. These facts and figures speak for themselves and Louisburg people themselves are astonished at the wonderful record of 1905.

The First National Bank was established during the year with a capital of $25,000. The deposits have grown to $93,000 and its business is constantly increasing. Its assets now amount to $145,000. Mr. R. G. Allen is president and Mr. J. R. Collie cashier.

CHAPEL HILL.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Chapel Hill, Jan. 22.—Chapel Hill Orange county, the seat of the University of North Carolina, is most delightfully situated in the foot hills of the piedmont plateau with a most excellent climate and splendid drainage. The town has had very substantial and progressive growth during the past few years and is now becoming a manufacturing town of some importance. During the past year the Lloyd Cotton Mill has largely increased its capacity and now has 10,000 spindles; the hosiery mill has also increased its capacity to 200 dozen pairs per day; and the Chapel Hill Construction & Supply Company has installed a complete wood working plant and plaining mill, together with a dry kiln of 10,000 feet capacity. There have been eight houses erected at a cost varying from $1,200 to $5,000 each, besides a dozen smaller ones ranging from $150 to $900 each. Not withstanding the number of new houses erected during the year, it is practically impossible to rent a house in Chapel Hill and there is still a demand for a dozen or more houses at the present time.

The Bank of Chapel Hill has been very prosperous and has recently added five new directors to its board. The university has, during 1905, completed the Byrum gymnasium at a cost of $25,000 and has nearly completed the new chemical laboratory at a cost of $40,000. The Carnegie library offer is still under consideration nd Dr. Isaac B. Emerson's endowment of $5,000 to the electrical and mining engineering department will raise these branches to a high standard.

In August a mass meeting of the citizens of Chapel Hill was called, which resulted in the organization of a board of trade, which, since that time, has exerted its influence and given its assistance to the progress of Chapel Hill. It co-operated with the town officials in procuring a new lot and school house for Chapel Hill. It is also trying to interest the Durham & South Carolina Railroad to bring its tracks, which are now within four miles of Chapel Hill, into the town. The board of trade is now preparing a pamphlet setting forth, in detail, the advantages of Chapel Hill as a place of residence on account of its ideal climate, pure drinking water, superior sanitary conditions, attractive improvements, and educational facilities, the university library has over 40,000 volumes and there are many lectures given throughout the year that are open to the entire community.

Hornbill That Imprisons Mate.

Scientific American.

A remarkable mode of incarceration is practiced by the hornbills, birds with immense bills and horny crests, which inhabit Southern Asia, the Malayan islands, and Central and Southern Africa. In most if not all species the brooding female is walled up in a hollow tree and fed by her mate.

She remains confined in her prison until the eggs are hatched, and in some species until the young birds are able to fly. Meanwhile the mother has become temporarily incapable of flight, as she has moulted, or at least shed all her wing feathers, during her captivity. But the male is indefatigable in providing for his family, and is said to work so hard that he is reduced almost to a skeleton at the end of the brooding season.

According to the theory of many natives the female is imprisoned to prevent her neglecting her duty of brooding, and if she has been unfaithful or negligent her mate closes the little window of her cell and abandons her to a painful death by suffocation. The true story, perhaps, is this: The female walls herself in so that she cannot fall from the nest after losing her feathers, and also to protect herself from enemies. The building material is her own excrement. This version is less poetical than the other, but it is probably nearer the truth. It is supported by the statement that the female liberates herself as soon as the young birds are well grown, so that her prison is less formidable than it appears.

White Sparrows in Maine.

Maine Woods.

A large flock of sparrows attracted much attention in a mill yard in Gardiner some time ago. One of their number was perfectly white, not having a dark feather, and appeared perfectly capable of looking out for himself.