

BLOCKADING IN GASTON

BROKEN UP BY COTTON MILLS

Leading Manufacturer Declares That the Development of the Cotton Mill Industry in Gaston County drove Out the Moonshiners and Still—This an Example of a General Principle—Court Records are Conclusive Evidence Although Suggestive—Wilkes and Gaston Counties Compared—An Interview That Will Interest Many.

"Wherever you find cotton mills on the increase, you find blockading and illicit traffic in whiskey on the decrease," remarked the prominent manufacturer to an Observer reporter yesterday. "The statistics of any section will demonstrate this conclusively. The facts cannot be gained always from the court records, for the enforcement of the laws is oftentimes neglected by the officers. The general principle is true nevertheless. It is a fact that the increase in the spindleage of any section is always followed by a proportionate decrease in moonshining, blockading and a general illicit whiskey business. A sentiment is developed against such practices which always results sooner or later in the prosecution of the offenders. The prominent consequence is that all those who make it a regular practice to circumvent the laws, either discontinue or move to some other section. Those who desire to engage in other work can always secure employment in the cotton mills. Consequently those who are hardened moonshiners seek other climes.

"Gaston county furnishes such an ample example. Some decades ago there were no cotton mills in operation there and blind tigers haunted every cove. Moonshining there in those days was as bad as in Wilkes. The county was often referred to as one noted for the number of its illicit stills. As the years passed by cotton mills began to spring up here and there. The industry developed, giving employment to hundreds and thousands of people. The majority of the mill operatives were from the country and possessed more than ordinary strength of character. The sentiment against the illicit manufacturing and sale of liquor manifested itself at once. This public spirit was fostered by the mill owners and to-day there are comparatively few violations against the revenue laws in Gaston county. Now and then some old offenders drive a wagon load of moonshine liquor. Occurrences of this kind, however, are on the decline. Gaston county is one of the best-regulated and best-governed counties in the State.

"The court records cannot serve to prove the general principle that blockading diminishes with the increase in cotton mills. The number of prosecutions is not determined by the number of violations, but rather by the activity of the revenue officers. Wilkes county is noted for the number of its blockade stills and yet, last year, the record shows that there was but one offender prosecuted. Two years before there was not even one.

"The court record is interesting nevertheless. It is given for the past thirty years. In 1876, there were 4 cases prosecuted in Gaston county, in Wilkes county, 2, in 1877, 1 in Gaston and 2 in Wilkes. In 1878, the officers in Gaston, 1, in Wilkes, 1, and there were 17 cases in Gaston and 5 in Wilkes. In 1879, there were 7 cases in Gaston and 20 in Wilkes. In 1880, there were 2 cases in Gaston and 16 in Wilkes. In 1881, 2 cases in Gaston and 12 from Wilkes. For the remainder of the revenue officers neglected their work in Gaston County from 1882 to 1886, for there were no cases prosecuted during that time. In Wilkes, on the contrary, during that time 31 violators were prosecuted. In 1886, 13 cases were brought from Gaston and 20 from Wilkes. In 1887, 7 from Gaston and 20 from Wilkes. In 1888, 13 from Gaston and 7 from Wilkes. In 1889, 9 from Gaston and 9 from Wilkes. In 1890, 21 from Gaston and 11 from Wilkes. In 1891, 2 from Gaston and 41 from Wilkes. In 1892, 7 from Gaston and 12 from Wilkes. In 1893, 9 from Gaston and 10 from Wilkes. In 1894, 2 from Gaston and the astonishing total of 36 from Wilkes. This evidently shows that the revenue men of that section and during the next two years there were but 4 cases prosecuted.

"In 1896, the good people of Gaston undertook to combat the blockade business and to-day there were 19 cases during the next year. In 1898, 29, the next 17 and the next 21. The wholesale prosecution drove most of the moonshiners out of the county for in 1901 there were but 2 cases prosecuted and only 4 in 1902. Since that year there have been no cases prosecuted in Gaston and to-day the traffic there is at an end.

"There has been no wholesale prosecution of offenders in Wilkes during the past ten years due in part to the influence of Congressman E. Spencer Blackburn. In 1901, there were 6 cases in 1902, 2, in 1903, 1, in 1904, 0, in 1905, 8, and in 1906, 1."

JIM BELK BOUND OVER

Murray Starnes, a White Boy, Testifies Against Him—The Young Felon Had Been Arrested on a Charge of Drunkenness—Belk Had 51 Pints of Fire Water.

Murray Starnes, a young white man, lives in the Victor Mills section. He was arrested last Tuesday on a charge of drunkenness. He had staggered about and falling in the presence of some one who took it upon himself to telephone the news to the police station. Recorder Shannonhouse is an ardent cross-examiner. He knows the law and an expert at good advantage when he sees fit to do so. In questioning Starnes Wednesday Mr. Shannonhouse obtained a bit of information that appeared to him strikingly Holmes tendencies. He learned that Starnes had purchased one quart of whiskey from some blind tiger at the Southern passenger station. By holding Starnes over until yesterday the recorder secured the facts to justify the arrest of Jim Belk, a colored hackman, who was detected and convicted some time ago. The trial yesterday resulted in Belk's being bound over two more cases. In searching Belk's house the officers found a large well-loaded telescope which contained 51 pints of whiskey. Each bottle was wrapped in paper and ready for delivery.

Belk declared that the whiskey did not belong to him. He gave the \$200 bond required and returned to his work. Belk is a well-to-do negro. He owns his home and a number of horses and carriages. Young Starnes was fined \$5 for being drunk.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE NATIONAL PURE FOOD AND DRUG LAW

We are pleased to announce that Foley's Honey and Tar for cough, cold and lung troubles is not affected by the National Pure Food and Drug law as it contains no opium or other harmful drugs and we recommend it as a safe remedy for children and adults. R. H. Jordan & Co.



THE CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN

The Y. M. C. A. Committees Will Commence Their Work This Morning—\$6,000 Already Subscribed.

The meeting of the campaign committee for the Y. M. C. A. building held yesterday at 1 o'clock was the most enthusiastic committee meeting ever held by the local association. Men of prominence in the business life of Charlotte to the number of fifty assembled for a light luncheon and discussed plans for the great project. Work was assigned for the day and all committees will report at the 1 o'clock luncheon to-day. Many conjectures are being made on every hand as to the sum total of subscriptions for the first day's work. Some believe that the day will net a total of \$2,000. Of course this is a very liberal estimate and all right thinking citizens trust that the committees will not be disappointed in their laudable hopes.

Because of the great interest manifested on the streets this afternoon the campaign executive committee at a meeting held late last night, decided to order luncheon for 20 more men. The above clock will show daily the state of the building fund. The citizens of Charlotte in order to meet the conditions of the board of trustees and directors of the association have contributed \$6,000, and the huge clock on the square registers this amount as well as the clock which appears at the head of this column. This cut will appear daily and will register the correct amount of the fund. The citizens who have contributed this first \$6,000 are as follows, the mayor of the city, Hon. S. S. McNeill, leading the list with \$1,500; the other contributors are Messrs. J. D. Tompkins, S. W. Cramer, W. R. George, Howell, J. H. Wearn and W. E. Holt.

AS TO EXTENSION

The Committee of 100 Has Spoken and the People Expect a 2 1-2 Mile Extension—A Charlotte Business Man Talks About Expanding the Limits of the City—Some Interesting Suggestions.

The people of Charlotte are very much concerned about the proposed extension of the city limits. Many believed that when the committee of 100 met by the mayor, they had agreed upon a 2 1-2 mile extension that the matter was settled, but it now begins to look as if there would be a lively fight in the Legislature on the subject. The committee of 100 and the board of aldermen have decided for a 2 1-2 mile extension and that is what the people want if there is to be an extension at all. In talking with a well-known business man of the city yesterday an Observer representative called the following sentences from the conversation. "If you are going to have a city that will not let it be as the regularly appointed committee has ordered, I am for 2 1-2 or nothing. I am about to believe that some small vested interests are trying to interfere and thwart the will of the people of the city. The street cars go 2 1-2 miles and the property along the tracks should be developed as city property and nothing else. The property that is situated in the vicinity of the city should be taken in. Those who participate in the prosperity of the city and the general enhancement of the city should help to defray the expense."

"Mayor McNeill's letter to the Greater Charlotte committee had the right ring to it. It was as vigorous and as clear cut as his friend President Roosevelt could have made it. To go two miles and stop would be a mistake. This would be unfair to some who would be included in that boundary. We need the additional taxes that the half mile would bring in. The city should have the money."

A New Stomach



Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets Restore Lifeless Organs to Normal Condition.

A TRIAL PACKAGE FREE

Many a sufferer from Dyspepsia, indigestion and kindred ailments of the digestive organs carries around an absolutely useless stomach—a dead load, and a cesspool for ever-increasing disorders. The muscles are seemingly worn out. The mucous lining has lost its secretory power and food taken into the stomach lies there and ferments, causing sour eructations, belchings, heartburn, dizziness and other distressing conditions. Many sufferers have given up in despair until they have been induced by some interested friend to try a box of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are the dyspepsia's sure and only hope. They are a natural restorative of healthy action to the stomach and small intestine, because they supply just the elements that the weak stomach lacks—pepsin, diastase, golden meal and other digestive. If you are afflicted with any of the symptoms above described, be assured that your digestive organs are leading power—they need help and there is no more reliable help to be given them than to supply elements which will do the work of digestion for them.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets have been found by the test of reputable physicians in the United States and Great Britain to have remarkable digestive powers, one grain of the active principle of these tablets being sufficient to digest 1,000 grains of ordinary food. It is plain that no matter what the condition of your stomach, or how far your disease has progressed, one only of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets taken at meal time will do the work—give your stomach an opportunity to gain its lost power, the muscles will be strengthened, the glands invigorated, and you will be a new man.

It costs nothing to prove the effectiveness of this cure. Send for a free sample package to-day. F. A. Stuart Co., 78 Stuart Bldg., Marshall, Mich.

All druggists sell Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets at 50 cents a box.

THE NEED OF A REFORMATORY

The Charlotte Police Court Records Will Show That This County Has Good Material for Such an Institution—The Number of Youthful Offenders on the Increase in This Community—Boys are Doing Most of the Drinking and They Keep the Tenderloin Districts Going—One Instance Where a Reformatory Might Have Saved a Boy.

There is not a day in Charlotte that observant persons do not see the need of a reformatory for young boys and girls. Of recent years the records of the police court show an increase in the number of names of youthful offenders. Most of the drunkards of the city are boys under 20 years of age. The tenderloin districts teem with youngsters just out of short pants. These statements may seem rash, but men who see Charlotte by day and by night know that they are largely true. Within the last week several notorious cases have been tried before the recorder and a majority of the witnesses summoned are not 21 years of age. There is a number of small boys farmed out in the country, where they work for farmers, while they undergo a process of reformation. If the State had a well-regulated reformatory, Recorder Shannonhouse would know what to do with a certain class of youthful offenders. The number of young white men who appear before the city court is growing apace. If every member of the present Legislature could attend the recorder's court of this city, he would be willing to strain a point to establish a home for these tender offenders.

Readers of The Observer will recall the name of Cleveland Donaldson. At the age of 12 years the State had to charge with stealing. Later, it was highway robbery. At first he was turned loose and told to go and offend no more, but finally the State had to take him in hand. He was sent to the chancery with older and more experienced criminals. Tiring of the confinement of the convict camp life and the monotony of convict stripes, he escaped, stealing a county mule to fly away on, and returned to his meanness. Cleve is not a bad looking boy. He has bright eyes, fair skin, curly hair and ready wit. A reformatory might have saved him. It is said by his friends that he has reformed himself. This may be true, but the day will never come that his enemies do not point to his ankles and say: "See the marks of the shackles!" He may marry, raise a family and do well, but his children will be pointed at as the sons and daughters of a rogue. The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children even unto the third and fourth generation. It was true in the days of Moses and it is true to-day.

Cleve is not the only boy. There are others who might be named. The good women of North Carolina are fighting for a worthy cause. They expect to win. The representatives of this county are instructed to establish a reformatory. Mecklenburg led in declaring herself free and independent from England. In securing good roads, in establishing schools, in adopting the fence law, and now her people are anxious to try a reformatory in some form or another. Therefore Charlotte citizens are interested in the reformatory talk at Raleigh.

CHAS. M. STIEFF

Manufacturer of the Artistic Stieff, Shaw and Stieff Self-Playing Pianos. SOUTHERN WAREROOM: 5 West Trade Street, Charlotte, N. C. C. H. WILMOTH, Mgr.

Reformatory Hearing January 26

The Observer is requested to publish the following notice: January 26 is the day set for the reformatory hearing by the penal committee of the Legislature in Raleigh. All friends of the measure are earnestly requested to be present. MR. W. H. BURGWEY, Secretary of the King's Daughters and Sons, Weldon, Jan. 25.

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puts the seal of supreme approval upon the musical taste of its owner.

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There is lots of winter to come. Don't think a few days indicate spring. February and March will no doubt bring snow and ice.

Better get an OVERCOAT OR HEAVY SUIT.

We have an excellent stock, made of the very best material—fit and style guaranteed. Better come and get one.

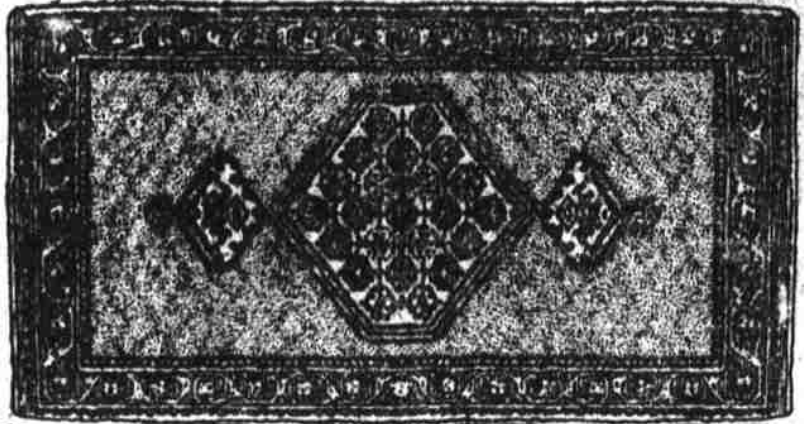
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Perhaps a Tie, Shirt or Gloves would help your wardrobe. We have an excellent line to select from.

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Goods Sent on Approval Returnable at Our Expense.

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Dame Fashion has decreed Scotch Plaids to be the proper style for Men's Cravats.

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We have about twelve dozen Colored Stiff Bosom Shirts, regular \$1.00 and \$1.50 Shirts, we will sell for 50 Cents Each. All sizes, 14 to 16 1-2. First come, first served.

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We are offering a superb line of Dressers, embracing all the latest styles and made up in Oak, Mahogany, Bird's Eye Maple or Early Birch.

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See our special for this week in Princess Dressers, Oak, Mahogany or Bird's Eye Maple, for \$16.50; worth \$20.00.

We will be pleased to show you through, whether you are ready to buy or not.

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