

The Asheville Gazette-News
 PUBLISHED BY
Evening News Publishing Co.
 ASHEVILLE, N. C.
 NEW YORK OFFICE—215 Fifth Avenue (Brunswick Bldg.), Room 404.
 CHICAGO OFFICE—311 Boyce Bldg.
 Charles A. Menet, Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 Asheville and Baltimore:
 One Week 10c
 Three Months \$1.25
 Six Months 2.50
 Twelve Months 5.00

BY MAIL, IN ADVANCE:
 Three Months \$1.00
 Six Months 2.00
 Twelve Months 4.00

Entered at the Postoffice in Asheville as second-class matter.

The Gazette-News is a member of The Associated Press. Its telegraphic news is therefore complete and reliable.

Wednesday, December 1, 1909.

THE FOREST FIRE PROBLEM.

The prevention of forest fires is a subject in which the people of Western North Carolina should be deeply interested, and we believe they are; but unfortunately it is not always the sentiment of the majority which rules in such matters. A forest fire, carelessly or maliciously set, can destroy the work of a lifetime, devastate a forest, cause loss of life and property other than the forests' loss of thousands of dollars. While some forest fires may be maliciously set, many of them arise to lack of thought or interest on the part of persons who do not realize what a serious thing a forest fire often becomes. Many forest fires would and could be avoided if persons would only realize the enormous damage these uncontrollable blazes do.

THE "BIG PRETTY EAR."

In his department of the Raleigh Progressive Farmer Prof. Massey writes:
 "I saw some of Mr. Batts' corn at the North Carolina state fair, stalks with eight ears on them, and I will be willing to wager that there was not an ear in all of the 225 2-3 bushels on the acre that would pass the score-card at one of the big-pretty-ear corn shows, where size and certain type govern the awards. I saw at a corn show in Baltimore two years ago an ear of Coker's Prolific corn, and no one took any notice of it, all being attracted to the big ears, every one of which had grown as a single ear on a stalk. Talk to these big-show-ear men and they will all tell you that one big ear on a stalk is better than more medium-sized ears. But did any of the show ears ever make 225 2-3 bushels on an acre? Even the big ear out west a year or so ago which took the highest prize and was bought back by the exhibitor for \$250, who then got thousands of dollars worth of free advertising in the farm papers, was said to have come from a field that made 48 bushels per acre. Is it not time to devote more attention to breeding for productivity? Pretty ears are desirable, but bushels of corn per acre are far more important to the farmer."

What the Switchmen Say.

Speaking for the switchmen President Hawley said in part:
 "I have never seen a time when the men were thoroughly organized and ready for concerted action as in the present instance. This strike will result in the most complete tie-up of railroad traffic in the territory affected that has ever been known, not even excepting the great strike of 1894. From now on, not a switch engine will move in the territory between the head of the lakes and the Pacific coast."
 "We did not wish a strike and used every reasonable means to avoid one."
 "We have advised every member that from the moment the strike begins he must keep away from the companies' property, obey the law, commit no act of violence, nor to do anything that will reflect discredit upon himself or the organization conducting the strike."

Religious Census.

(Contributed.)
 The city directory is getting to be a rather formidable-sized volume. The latest book, which is being bound now, is 9 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches. Most of us, perhaps, expected that it would show a population in the community that covers that is to say, Greater Asheville and suburbs, of 30,000; and the estimate figures of 29,987 will not cause any considerable excitement. This estimate is made in the usual conservative manner of deducting names of wives, children and business concerns, and multiplying the remainder by 2 1/4.

NEW CONDITIONS MAY CALL FOR NEW METHODS.

"Our attention has been called," as the politicians say, to what is called the commission form of city government, friends of the plan asking us to set forth its merits so that our readers may determine whether in their opinion it should be adopted by this city. We have in fact been interested in this departure from its inception and have seen much to commend in it. Without, however, having reached a conclusion that any radical change in the government of Asheville is needed. Thanks to our friends we are in possession of very complete data on the whole subject, which will enable us to put the gist of the matter before the people. It may appear that there are some ways in which Asheville would benefit by going further into this plan.
 Asheville has been for years a remarkably progressive municipality and we would feel a hesitancy in advising it to pattern its administration after that of another town; whereas we would not hesitate at all to say that a great many other places would find it to their profit to take a leaf out of Asheville's book.
 It must be taken into consideration, however, that great forces are apparently working to bring about a practical revolution of conditions here. If projects now under consideration should materialize it will be but a short time before the population of this city will have doubled. We may as well begin to prepare for larger things. Asheville's growth has been great in the past few years, but it has been steady; the added population has been easily assimilated and there have been no sudden, startling new conditions of any magnitude to meet.
 (29,987)

It has been said that if the lords killed the budget the budget would probably kill the lords. The peers probably knew as much about this as anyone, and yet they very quietly killed it. It was a dignified procedure; if it is indeed the cue for a revolution in which the peerage is likely to lose its place in the British government, one cannot help admiring their courage.
 (29,987)

What we would particularly like to know is: if it should be found that Dr. Cook was really the first man to reach the north pole, but that he had faked on the Mt. McKinley story, would he still be a world hero, or just a sort of near hero?
 (29,987)

Many a poor devil scrambled, scratched and sweated over 20 acres of land last summer, without getting as much corn off it as Batts did off one acre.
 (29,987)

Fact is, we are all just preparing to get ready to live in this land of the free and home of the brave.
 (29,987)

Fewer acres, more stuff!
 (29,987)

THE SWITCHMEN ARE ON STRIKE

(Continued from page 1.)
 territory west of Havre, Mont., on the Great Northern railway, and west of Billings, Mont., on the Northern Pacific railway.

The attention of the switchmen was called to the fact that in 1906 the switchmen were granted a larger percentage of increases than any other class of employes in train service. At present the wages of the switchmen average over \$100 a month.

The statement then says that in submitting its final answer to the switchmen the managers suggested that the demands be submitted to arbitration under the provisions of the Erdman act. The switchmen declined this suggestion.

The statement then says that a telegram was addressed to Martin A. Knapp of the interstate commerce committee and Charles P. Neill, United States commissioner of labor, asking them to act as mediators under the Erdman act. The statement adds:

"Before the conference with Messrs. Knapp and Neill had begun, despite the understanding reached in the conferences that mediation under the Erdman act should be revoked, and without the knowledge of either the managers committee or mediators, a strike order was issued by the switchmen's committee directing the switchmen of the 13 northwestern railroads to cease work at 6 p. m. November 29, in the event that their full demands had not been conceded."

"This violation of good faith so embarrassed the negotiations that successful mediation became impossible and led to the demand by Messrs. Knapp and Neill, addressed to both the managers' committee and the switchmen, that the controversy be submitted to arbitration under the terms of the Erdman act. To this proposal the members committee gave its willing assent; but the switchmen absolutely declined it."

Plans for racing in Tennessee.
 Memphis, Dec. 1.—G. C. Bennett, a local turfman, has renewed his efforts to secure a lease on Billon's park for a proposed spring meet to follow the Florida races. The oral betting system is believed possible under the Tennessee law.

Park & Tilford's Candles. C. Sawyer.

NEW SKIN REMEDY
STOPS ALL ITCHING
 Skin Troubles of Adults and Infants Quickly Cured.
 When it is known that psoriasis, the new skin discovery, will stop the torturous itching attending eczema with first application and bring immediate relief and comfort to sufferers from all skin troubles, its merit will be appreciated and its wonderful success understood. On the tender skin of chafing infants, psoriasis may be used with soothing and beneficial effects. It is applied externally, and its remarkable healing powers begin at once.

All skin diseases, including eczema, acne, herpes, rash, tetter, etc., yield immediately to psoriasis. Occasional applications, in small quantities, will quickly banish pimples, blackheads, blotches, and will relieve and cure itching feet, scaly scalp, humors, etc. A special 50-cent package is prepared for these minor skin troubles. This as well as the regular two-dollar jar, is on sale at Smith's, Segwell's, the Asheville Drug Co., and other leading drug stores in Asheville.

An experimental supply of psoriasis may be obtained free of charge by writing to the Emergency Laboratories, 22 West Twenty-fifth Street, New York.

Watch This Space for Bargains For sale—The Oaks Hotel. REED & JUSTICE, Real Estate Agents, Over Citizen's Bank. Phone 1128

HENDERSON READY TO DO HER PART

Is Greatly in Favor of Asheville-Greenville Highway and Wants Action.

Gazette-News Bureau, Hotel Gates, Hendersonville, Dec. 1.

Henderson county is thoroughly aroused in the interest of the proposed highway between Asheville and Greenville, S. C. That the advantages of such a Macadamized road would not only benefit the residents along the road, but would add profits to every citizen of Henderson county is the general sentiment.

This county is in excellent financial condition to construct her portion of the road from the Buncombe line to the state line on top of the mountain. County Supervisor P. F. Patton said yesterday that he was very much in favor of the automobile highway to Greenville, and that as far as he knew Henderson county would certainly carry out her part of the program. He further stated that he was now in correspondence with the county supervisor of Greenville, in reference to a correct survey of the proposed road over the mountains. When this survey is made the forty or more members of the county chain gang will be located in building a new road, reducing the grades and greatly shortening the length of the old highway over the mountainous portion of the county.

At the present writing the county has appropriated the amount of \$8000 to be expended on county roads. Of this a goodly portion can be used on the Buncombe turnpike, besides the right of the county commissioners to issue additional bonds for roads.

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 Memphis, Dec. 1.—G. C. Bennett, a local turfman, has renewed his efforts to secure a lease on Billon's park for a proposed spring meet to follow the Florida races. The oral betting system is believed possible under the Tennessee law.

Park & Tilford's Candles. C. Sawyer.

Chas. H. Honess
 Opp. Postoffice.
 Don't Take Things For Granted.
 Especially glasses. If we couldn't give you a scientific examination and fit your eyes properly we wouldn't be in business today. Doing what we advertise is why we do so much. We give satisfaction. Anything Optical that has merit.

Eye
GRACE
THE
FACE

Watch This Space for Bargains For sale—The Oaks Hotel. REED & JUSTICE, Real Estate Agents, Over Citizen's Bank. Phone 1128

ASHEVILLE HARNESS CO.

Manufacturers and Jobbers of Harness, Saddlery and Horse Collars.

ROASTING PANS
 The latest and best at the lowest prices. See them at
The Asheville China Co.,
 6 North Pack Square, Phone 281.

RedCross Mattresses and Brenlin Window Shades

Both essential to comfort. We furnish either.
BURTON & HOLT
 Heating Stoves of all kinds for Coal and Wood. Also nice line of Ranges and Cook Stoves. Prices \$1.50 up. Comfort Oil Heaters.
DONALD & DONALD,
 14 South Main St. Phone 441.

STOVES \$1.50 UP.

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Park & Tilford's Candles. C. Sawyer.

Wachovia Loan & Trust Company
 Statement at the Close of Business September 1, 1909.

RESOURCES:		LIABILITIES:	
Loans.....	\$4,554,185.04	Capital Stock.....	\$ 600,000.00
Real Estate, Furniture & Fixtures.....	152,250.34	Undivided Profits.....	304,214.78
Cash in Banks & Vault.....	825,435.87	Deposits.....	4,606,854.98
	\$5,531,871.25		\$5,531,871.25

T. S. MORRISON, Chairman. W. B. WILLIAMSON, Cashier.
GENERAL BANKING, TRUST AND SAVINGS BUSINESS.
 North Carolina's Oldest Trust Company and Strongest Bank

The American National Bank

Capital \$300,000. Deposits \$1,000,000.
 The Largest Bank in Western North Carolina.
 The Only Bank in Asheville under U. S. Supervision.
ACCOUNTS INVITED, LARGE AND SMALL.
JOHN H. CARTER, President. HENRY REDWOOD, Vice-Pres.
C. J. HARRIS, Vice-President. R. M. FITZPATRICK, Cashier.

BRING YOUR OLD HARNESS

To us and we will make it look like new at a very little cost. Repairing promptly, neatly and reasonably done. We manufacture anything in the harness line.
W. E. MASSIE HARNESS CO.,
 Wholesale and Retail. 30 North Main St.

NEW TEA AND COFFEE STORE.

We do our own coffee roasting, this means fresh goods all the time. If you drink tea we can please you. Tea at the following prices: 40c to \$2.00 lb. Coffee, 15c to 75c lb.
THE SIMPSON TEA & COFFEE CO.,
 "The Store of High Quality and Low Prices."
 35 East College Street.

OVERCOATS \$5 to \$15. UNDERSHIRTS

Heavy warm ones for 40 cents and a dollar. Bargains in warm socks. Cold weather will hit us hard when it does strike.
O. E. STONER CO.,
 18 South Main Street.

SEE THE BIG DOLL

In our Show Window. PRICE, \$10.00.
 Drop 25c each day, except Sunday, till sold.
O. K. GROCERY CO.,
 362-364 Depot Street, Phone 672.

Now is the time to get your Coal Heaters—\$1.25 up. No charge for setting them up.

WALTON & McLAIN FURNITURE CO.,
 Phone 1515. 19 S. Main St.

Bon Marche

Lots of Pretty Things for Christmas Here

Our Ladies' Suits and Dresses and Children's Coats Must Go

About price reductions: Our Ladies' Suits and Dresses are marked in plain figures. When a per cent reduction is made the amount is taken off the price of the suit—in other words you know what you get when you buy here.

For the remainder of this week we will offer to you three unusual values—the biggest bona fide specials of the season.

Children's Coats in a number of pretty colors at one-fourth off. This Season's Goods.

\$3.50 to \$15.00 Values for \$2.62 to \$11.25

Ladies' Dresses in blue, black, green, orange, yellow, tan and old rose. The materials are Broadcloth, Silk and Worsted. They are priced at one-third off.

\$7.50 to \$50.00 Values for \$5.00 to \$33.33

We will sell our entire line of beautiful Winter Suits at one-fourth off for the rest of this week. If Bon Marche values mean anything to you, this is the sale you will attend.

\$17.50 to \$60.00 Values for \$13.12 to \$45.00

Meet Your Friends at the Bon Marche



For Confederate Monument on Johnson's Island.
 Sandusky, O., Dec. 1.—Mrs. E. L. Williams of Cincinnati, representing Patton chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, has selected a site on Johnson's Island, Lake Erie, for the erection of a monument to the memory of 225 Confederate prisoners, who died and were buried there.