

SANFORD.

Population Increased 30 Per Cent, New Industries Established.

Sanford, N. C., Dec. 28, 1890. To the Editor: In reply to your request, I submit the following:

In 1859 there were seventy new houses built in Sanford. One artisan well has been finished and is furnishing an ample supply of water of the very best quality for domestic purposes and for steam.

We have completed a first class, modern system of water works. We have organized a part paid and partly volunteer fire company.

We have about finished the brick work of our large new cotton mill, using in the walls and foundations more than one million brick.

Our population has increased fully 30 per cent. The business of our bank has more than doubled.

Every business in town, both mercantile and manufacturing, has had a most prosperous year, doing a largely increased and profitable business.

The moral tone of the town is unsurpassed; there is not a whiskey distillery or a bar room within six miles.

For all purposes our town taxes are only 25 cents on the \$100.

There is not a vacant house in town, and fully twenty-five could be rented within one week's time if we had them. We have made arrangements whereby we are offering free sites and water and exemption from municipal taxation to any new manufacturing enterprise.

Of greater importance than all the above, the three great Southern systems of railway pass within our gates, a distinction and advantage enjoyed by no other town in the State.

Sanford in 1900 will build more than three times as many houses as have been built in any previous year of her history.

A large wholesale grocery business will be established here.

A number of new manufacturing industries will be inaugurated.

We will buy much more cotton and lumber than ever before.

We will thoroughly equip and train our fire department.

There will be a new classification of the town for insurance and a substantial reduction in insurance rates.

We will begin the permanent improvement of our streets.

We will plant several thousand shade trees.

We will inaugurate a movement for the establishment of a graded school.

We confidently expect electric lights and electric power to be conveyed from Buckhorn Falls on the Cape Fear River, only ten miles distant.

Unless all signs fail we will have a large tobacco warehouse.

We will build a belt line of railway partly around the town for the convenience and economy of manufacturers and wholesale merchants, offering free sites along the line.

Our postoffice will be in the presidential class.

Our population will increase 100 per cent in 1900.

We will extend a hearty welcome to all good people who care to cast their lots with us. We will pull together, attend to our own business, and lend a helping hand to every worthy industry coming our way.

D. E. McIVER.

MURFREESBORO.

Manufacturing Concerns Enlarge and Schools Prosperous.

Murfreesboro, N. C., Dec. 28. To the Editor: This is one of the old towns of the State. But still it lives and seems to prosper and improve, like many other things, by age. It has long been known in this State and Virginia for its refinement and its schools. Here many a young idea has been taught to shoot, and to shoot high. And many homes in the State have reflected pride and happiness and dignity by the polishing and elevating influence of its schools and its society.

The building of new railroads within the last ten or twelve years had a depressing influence and effect upon the business interest of the town and many predicted that the "Old town" was dead. But it is one of the liveliest "Old Towns" you ever saw.

The Chowan Baptist Institute, for girls, has been better patronized, during the year just passed than it has been for a number of years.

The Methodist Seminary has been liberally supported this year and now seems to be on a firm foundation and is doing much good in the distribution of learning. The mercantile business of the town, which was at a low ebb a few years ago, but which for the last three years has been on the increase, in the year 1890 broke its former records and closes with an increase of 40 per cent over last year. It begins to remind one of former days when she was the "glory of the east."

The Hertford Machine Company has enlarged and greatly improved its plant. Here is made plows, harrows improved seed planters, all kinds of wood work, and the making of many newly invented implements useful to an agricultural community. It is well equipped with expensive machinery of the latest inventions. This company has recently added to its plant machinery for making all kind of wire fencing.

The North Carolina Peanut Company is also a new enterprise recently started in our town. It is now in operation, using the latest improved machinery for cleaning and shelling peanuts. It buys from the farmers their peanuts at full market price, if they desire to sell or toll. Our neighboring farmers being engaged largely in cultivating peanuts, this enterprise is one from which the town and vicinity will receive great benefits.

A saw mill and shingle mill, established during the year, is in the hands of the leading mills in the State. The new stores and other buildings during the year, old ones generally kept in better condition.

Did water power suitable and other factories, easily harnessed. This splendid water power of the town of Weldon and this invites a good to engage in such an enterprise can be secured and Son are prepared to increase, very and buggy factory, and another.

During the year 1890 there have been

ery and is preparing to put in operation, in the near future, a hoop factory.

We have daily connection, by steamer, with the Atlantic Coast Line and the Southern Railway at Tunis, N. C.

Several families of prominence and of worth have been added to the population of our delightful "Old Town." We are going ahead, but are making but little noise about it.

B. B. WINBOURNE, Mayor.

LENOIR.

Capital in Factories Increased From \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Lenoir, N. C., Dec. 27, 1890.

To the Editor: The year just closing has marked an era of growth and material advancement unparalleled in the history of Lenoir. Although there has been no boom, nor any effort made to create a boom, she has gone forward at a rate unequalled by any town in this part of the country. And yet the future is still brighter. The assurance of a standard gauge railroad has infused new life in all enterprises. In the year 1890 less than \$5,000 was invested in Lenoir in manufacturing enterprises, today over \$25,000 is invested in the manufacture of furniture and other woodworking establishments. There is still room for millions of capital, and raw material to last for years. Within the past year the capacities of the factories have been increased thirty per cent.

Among the new industries which will begin business early in the coming year is the Commercial Bank, an institution established by Messrs. Moore and Lutz. These young men are two of Lenoir's youngest and most progressive business men, having established and operated the Lenoir mills, where they manufacture a high grade of patent flour.

The new bank building will soon be completed at a cost of about \$3,000. It is one of the handsomest bank buildings in the State. The bank will begin business with a capital of \$15,000.

Dr. A. F. Houch, one of Lenoir's best physicians, has about completed, and will soon open a sanitarium for the treatment of his patients. His building is modern in all its appointments and cost \$12,000.

A building is now in course of construction for a machine shop. Mr. Harrington, an experienced machinist, formerly of Pennsylvania, is at the head of this enterprise. During the year now coming to a close \$45,500 was spent in building and repairing buildings; the town has purchased a complete stone crushing plant and has macadamized several streets. Davenport college has been reopened and taken on new life; the Lenoir High school property secured at a cost of \$3,000. Every person who was willing to work have had employment, and the demand for laborers is still not supplied.

There's no better location in the country for both capital and labor than in this thriving and progressive town, and such is invited and welcomed.

EDGAR A. POE, Mayor.

ELIZABETH CITY.

New Cotton Mills, Oyster Canneries and Lumber Mills.

Elizabeth City, Dec. 29.

To the Editor: Elizabeth City has grown steadily the past twelve months. It has two of the largest dry good stores in the South, not equalled in North Carolina, and it is believed it does the biggest business of any city of 8,000 population in North Carolina. Among the many improvements let me mention a few:

The cotton factory, of which Dr. O. McMullan is president, is doubling its capacity. It earned 20 per cent last year.

Two companies have been organized, one to establish a furniture and the other a knitting factory. The money has been subscribed and both will commence operations in the Spring.

The Citizens Bank, a new institution, which began business about five months ago, is doing well, having deposits in the neighborhood of \$300,000. The business of the First National Bank is large and growing. Its stock is worth \$150 per share of \$100.

Eight or ten new oyster factories are in operation, provided with facilities for canning as well as shipping and packing. The streets are being greatly improved. \$20,000 of bonds have been issued and the streets are being put in excellent condition with Belgian block and oyster shells.

The lumber interests are very large. There are 5 saw mills, 3 planing mills and 2 shingle mills in operation, all pressed to their utmost capacity.

Fifteen elegant brick stores have been erected during the year, and more are being built. Many new residences have been completed and are in process of erection.

The completion of the Dismal Swamp Canal, with a depth sufficient to admit vessels drawing ten feet of water, is an event of great importance, insuring cheap freight rates, so necessary for manufacturing enterprises.

A large new rice mill has been completed and put in operation.

The educational growth has been marked. The Atlantic Collegiate Institute has 200 students, gathered from all parts of Eastern North Carolina and Virginia. The public schools are doing excellent work.

The Baptists have built two neat chapels during the year, and the Methodists are preparing to build a handsome new church.

The wholesale business of Elizabeth City is reaching large proportions. There are ten big wholesale houses here that send out twenty drummers.

Work will shortly commence on the new Federal postoffice and court house building for which a \$50,000 appropriation has been made.

The purchase of the Norfolk and Southern by the Vanderbilts is believed to mean that it will be completed from Bell Haven to Wilmington, giving a line through the extreme portion of Eastern North Carolina.

S. L. SHEEP.

WILKESBORO.

Locust Pin and Canning Factories Established.

To the Editor: Nothing invested in factories in 1890.

About \$2,000 today. There have been some \$5,000 invested in new manufacturing establishments and in enlarging old ones during the year 1890.

During the year 1890 there have been

spent from \$5,000 to \$8,000 mostly in residences. The improvements in the style and finish of residences is noticeable. R. A. Spainhour & Co. do an immense business in the manufacture and shipment of locust pins, insulating pins, etc.

Another industry that has been established in the present year is of canning fruits. Smook and Son have done a good and profitable business in this line and it promises to grow largely in the near future.

The business outlook for the town for the next year is most hopeful. There is considerable talk of a furniture factory and it is to be hoped that a number of like nature will soon go up here.

F. B. HENDREN, Mayor.

LAURINBURG.

A \$100,000 Cotton Mill Soon to Begin Operations.

To the Editor: In reply to your inquiry concerning an article with reference to the industrial development of our town and section, and the outlook for 1900, would say, that I regret my inability to do justice to the subject owing to a lack of sufficient time for its preparation besides other matters that demand my attention at this time.

However, even in a hurriedly written sketch, some features of industrial progress may appear, showing the many readers of the News and Observer that our town is not altogether asleep as the days go by.

It will be remembered that Laurinburg was once the seat of the railroad company's shops. In some respects the shops were a valuable acquisition, especially in a business and financial way. The company, of course, paid its employees monthly, and the cash, the pay-roll being probably about \$3,000 per month. Of course this money was turned over to the merchants for supplies and this monthly gathering of hard cash was necessarily a stimulus to our business interests.

But even with these advantages, there were corresponding disadvantages that could not be overlooked. There was always much talk of the shops being removed; the air was full of such reports and men of means who regarded the shops as the bone and sinew of the place, were slow to invest their money in any enterprise as in event of removal their investments would be that much dead loss.

Well, the shops were finally removed and as expected, a depressing effect was the result for awhile. But, as wise men had predicted, the town, being severed, from this source of revenue, was thrown on its own resources. Confidence was again restored and the people were not slow to recognize the necessity as well as the wisdom of feeling back on their own resources if they were to have any part in the great industrial wave that seems to have taken in so many Southern cities and towns.

Perhaps 5 cent cotton, the panic of 1892, and general stagnation in business circles, though such experiences, were helpful in laying the foundation for the better times that followed.

They instituted a more economical and diversified system of farming. The farmers reduced their cotton acreage and gave more attention to the cultivation of grain and other crops. Tobacco, a crop hitherto unknown, has fair to replace a considerable per cent of the cotton acreage.

The farmers have acquired valuable experience and will plant more of the weed the coming year. A convention of Scotland's tobacco growers will meet here tomorrow for the purpose of electing delegates to the State convention which meets in Raleigh Jan. 17th. The idea seems to be not only to raise those things necessary for home consumption, that can and should be raised on the farm, but to raise other crops that can readily be converted into cash and not rely on cotton as the sole dependence.

From a business point, we don't think the town was ever in better shape. The good prices prevailing this year have enabled the merchants to make good collections and the average farmer has not only paid out but has supplies at home on which to start the new year's business.

So far as town property is concerned, building lots are not only in demand, but come high. Handsome residences of modern style have been erected and are in process of erection; there has been a general advance in rents and withal, there is not an unoccupied dwelling in the town.

Of course, we Scotchmen think that our new county of Scotland has had much to do with stimulating progression along all lines. Our opponents used to say "threshing over the same old straw," but what does that matter as long as we succeeded in obtaining the pure grain?

The people have also observed that the rapid growth and development of other towns, have in most instances, been traceable to the attention given to manufacturing. As said by another, there can be no doubt but that "manufacturing is the great pioneer of industrial development."

We think we have made a fine start in this direction. The Scotland cotton mills, a 5,000 spindle mill, built almost entirely by home capital, is one of the best built mills in the State and is fitted up throughout, at great expense, with the latest and most improved machinery.

The plant cost \$100,000 and will be ready for work in 8 or 10 days. The product of the mill will be hosiery yarns, from 24-40 and employment will be given to about 100 hands. Although the mill has not yet made a beginning, yet the stockholders would not take part for their stock today. Already rumors are being circulated that this mill will be followed by another one in the near future.

This is a brief and necessarily an imperfect sketch of our present condition, together with the outlook for future business. Had we the time and space we might make mention of other matters along this line, but for the present, the above will suffice.

J. T. McEACHIN, Editor Exchange.

GREENVILLE.

Buildings Destroyed by Fire Replaced by Finer Structures.

Greenville, N. C., Dec. 27, 1890.

Greenville made more progress this year than in any one year of its history. More money has been expended in the erection of buildings, the volume of business has been larger, the sales of tobacco have greatly increased, more people have been added to the population, the municipal administration has

been more progressive, and along all lines there has been general advancement.

A great fire visited the city in May, but so indomitable was the pluck of the people that not a trace of the conflagration was discernible six months thereafter. Every spot was replaced with larger, better and handsomer buildings than before.

The future of Greenville is bright. There is not a town in the State that offers a better opening for factories.

D. J. WHITCHARD, Editor Reflector.

SCOTLAND NECK.

Has \$140,000 in Manufactories and a Shirt Factory to Start.

Scotland Neck, N. C., Dec. 27, 1890.

In 1890 there was practically no capital invested in saw mills. Now, the amount invested in the various enterprises established since that time is \$140,000.

This includes about the same saw mill interest that was here in 1890; the two knitting mills which have been established; a handsome hotel, a carriage and buggy manufactory, the Scotland Neck bank and some minor industries that have added materially to the industrial interests of the town.

Since 1890 the school interests of the town have been greatly improved, a new and commodious brick building having been built for the male school and good repairs having been made on the female school. There have been some changes and considerable growth in the two schools referred to, the principal of the male school being Prof. D. M. Prince and L. R. Wilson, and the principal of the female school being Prof. L. W. Bagley. Besides these, Vine Hill Male Academy and Vine Hill Female Academy, a new school, Cottage Home, has been opened during the past year by Miss Lena Smith.

A tobacco market was opened here August 4, 1898, and has had two seasons of successful sales.

The manufacturing and business outlook for 1900 is quite flattering indeed. A new shirt factory for which machinery is already in place, will start up the first of January, employing when in full operation, about one hundred operatives.

Early in 1900 there will be erected on Main street two brick buildings for stores and offices, one costing \$2,500 and the other \$10,000. In addition to these, as many as forty dwelling houses will be built within the next four months; and persons of ability to do the work say that a peanut cleaner will be established here by the peanut season in 1900.

Within the next few days a new hardware business will be opened here by gentlemen of means and experience, and other new branches of business are in contemplation.

Since 1890 the population of Scotland Neck has increased about 50 per cent, and with the new industries now being established and in prospect, there is reasonable expectation for a still larger increase in the near future. Business has never been so good in Scotland Neck as now. The week ending December 25, 1890, was the greatest week ever known in the business history of the town, and it is the general opinion that Saturday, December 23, was the biggest day for actual business the town has ever seen.

From careful estimates by the business men here the volume of business done in the town, outside of the manufacturing mentioned, is 50 per cent greater than it was in 1890.

The improvements in the various enterprises here last year amounted to \$15,000 and there is a good prospect for still greater improvement and enlargement in 1900.

It has never been claimed that the town had experienced any phenomenal growth during any year or term of years, but its growth and improvement have been gradual and permanent, and the outlook for manufacturing industries and general business is brighter now than it ever has been. E. E. HILLIARD, Editor Democrat.

GASTONIA.

\$200,000 Was Put in Factories and \$240,000 in Buildings.

Gastonia, N. C., Dec. 28, 1890.

To the Editor: Complying with your request to furnish you certain facts concerning the growth of Gastonia, and the development of her resources, I would say:

The amount of capital invested in manufacturing in 1890 was about \$100,000. Today the amount is about \$750,000.

During the year 1890 the amount invested was about \$200,000, of which \$150,000 was used in building and equipping the Ozark Mills, and the balance, \$50,000, was used in building and equipping an addition to the Modena Mills.

The old mills here, having made such large dividends for their stockholders, have greatly added the stockholders in hatching out into new industries; and the two banks here have furnished a good deal of money; while many of the merchants and some of the farmers and professional men have prospered to such an extent as to enable them to own good holdings in stocks in these enterprises.

The amount of money spent in this city for building and repairing in 1890 was about \$240,000. We have two schools of high grade in the city, The Oakland High School and The Gastonia Institute. These schools have had a marvelous growth in usefulness and popularity; and they are in all respects keeping pace with the wonderful growth of the city. (The popularity of the city in 1890 was 1,033. It is now nearly 5,000.)

The manufacturing and business outlook for 1900 is very bright. Our million dollar cotton mill will be built and another smaller miller has already organized with a capital of \$125,000. Very truly,

WM. H. LEWIS, Mayor.

MARSHALL.

Manufacturing and Business Outlook Bright.

Marshall, N. C., Dec. 27, 1890.

To the Editor: In answer to your questions Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, I will say in answer to question one, the amount of capital invested in manufacturing in the town of Marshall at present is about \$12,000 or \$15,000, invested in a first-class roller mill and

in the year 1890 there was nothing invested in such an enterprise; and as to question No. 2, there has been no new enterprises commenced within the town this year. 3rd. There has been spent for building and repairs in the town in the year 1890 about \$6,000. Within the last three years, there has been a splendid school building erected, and a first class school started, which is still doing splendid work in the line of education. 5. The manufacturing and business outlook for the year 1900 is hopeful, and bids fair to be better than it was in the year 1890.

Very truly,

C. B. MARSHBURN, Mayor.

ELON COLLEGE.

Has Grown From a Depot in 1890 to a Thriving Town.

Elon College, N. C., Dec. 27, 1890.

To the Editor: Elon College is an educational town. The College is the property of the Christian Church, South.

In 1890 there was only a small depot, owned by individuals and a company store. The amount of property did not exceed five hundred (\$500.00) dollars.

There are now two three-story brick buildings for college purposes, worth \$80,000, a faculty of ten members, average attendance, 111 per annum; 32 nice residences, 2 stores.

Two papers are published here—The Christian Sun, organ of the Christian Church, South, and Elon College Weekly, two blacksmith and wood shops, six daily passenger trains, four daily mails.

Telegraph and telephone lines connect us with the business centers. It is also the shipping point for Altamaha and Osgipe Cotton Mills.

The amount of shipping done in 1890 was about \$1,000 per month. In this month to date it amounts to more than \$4,000.

The Southern Railway has one of the nicest and most convenient depots that there is between Greensboro and Raleigh.

C. H. ROWLAND, Mayor.

ROCKY MOUNT.

Growth of Its Cotton, Wood and Ice Factories, Tobacco Market.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Dec. 27, 1890.

To the Editor: Rocky Mount, though the spot has borne that name since the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad was built, yet it only began its immense impetus which has brought it to its high state of progressiveness and marked it as one of the leading towns in North Carolina in the last fifteen years.

Fifteen years ago the population of the town scarcely exceeded 500 inhabitants with its tributaries. The town now boasts at least 4,000 souls. Its growth is monthly. Next to Greensboro it has more railroad advantages than any town in the State.

Lying equidistant from Goldsboro and Weldon, about 40 miles from each place, surrounded by a fertile country with farms in a high state of cultivation, the center of the golden leaf tobacco district and with as productive cotton fields as there are in the State, the future of the town is well assured. It is on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad with daily trains to Plymouth, Washington, Springhope and Nashville within four hours' travel of Richmond and Norfolk. It lies in the counties of Edgecombe and Nash.

The first tobacco market in Eastern North Carolina was established at this town for the sale of the loose leaf. It met with almost insurmountable difficulties at the beginning, for the farmers who had all their lives been raising cotton for their monied crop, had to be persuaded that the culture of tobacco would redound to their interest, and that it could be produced more successfully in the country surrounding than in the original tobacco belt. From that beginning it has plodded steadily along until with its four warehouses, fifteen factories and strong force of buyers well established there is no market in North Carolina on a stronger basis or one that gives more satisfaction to the sellers of the weed. What is unusual in tobacco towns the market is so well entrenched in the estimation of the public that the men who conduct it do not have to resort to boastfulness to maintain it, but the facts stand out prominently for themselves.

ROCKY MOUNT MILLS.

This is the site of the first cotton mill built in North Carolina, and it is now one of the largest and most prosperous mills in the State. When the present management took charge, it contained 4,000 spindles and now contains 26,000. The management and the stockholders are all native North Carolinians, which increases the interest of the people in it. There is no prettier or cleaner factory village in the South.

As is necessary in all large properties, improvements are constantly being made. This fall two large horizontal turbine wheels have been put in, so that now the classic Tar River is very effectively harnessed up. Arrangements have been made to supply the whole property with the new Rocky Mount water system, which will furnish beyond question the purest water in North Carolina. This will be done without expense to the operatives and shows how thoroughly their interests are cared for by the very progressive management. A public school is maintained on the grounds all the year, taught by a first class lady teacher and is accomplishing great good. The moral tone of the community is of the very best and it is hard to find a better or healthier population.

Among the leading industries of Rocky Mount the manufacture and sale of ice is fast occupying a prominent position. The Southern Ice Company and the Rocky Mount Ice Company are both strong concerns, well entrenched in the popular mind as having ample means for the development of their business, and executive ability of the highest kind in their management. The Southern Ice Company is now preparing to install the machinery to manufacture 50 tons per day, making the total output in both about 80 tons per day.

The Rocky Mount Ice Company has under way a storage warehouse of 2,000 tons capacity.

The Tar River Lumber Company, dealers in rough and dressed lumber, is another concern that is doing an immense business here, with a future full of bright promise. Lumber is shipped by them to all parts of the country. A hand-saw with a cutting capacity of 40,000 feet is being put in. The tram road to Littleton in Halifax county, will place within the reach of this mill the

large pine forests almost as yet untouched by the woodman's axe.

The great quantity of building always going on here has produced another industry, the Simmons Sash, Door and Blind Factory, located in easy reach of the railroad. While yet in its infancy the business done has far exceeded the expectations of its owner, Mr. C. W. Simmons.

The amount of business done in this town is best summarized by referring to that of the railroads centering here. Their payroll for employees here amounts to \$20,000 per month; 605 solid car loads of freight were handled here in the last month, to say nothing of the immense quantity in mixed cars. Their business has been such as to insure as one of the things of the future the connection with Raleigh, via Springhope. A humanitarian feature of the railroad work at South Rocky Mount is their hospital. This institution is thoroughly equipped and will be placed in charge of Drs. W. H. and J. P. Whitehead.

These are some only of the enterprises, mostly in their youth, but of hardy and vigorous growth, on which the town confidently relies for success and prosperity in the coming years.

T. T. THORNE, Mayor.

CHAPEL HILL.

New Hotel, Bank, Cotton Mill and Iron Mine Work in Progress.

Chapel Hill, N. C., Dec. 28.

To the Editor: For over one hundred years Chapel Hill existed as a dependent upon the University. Five or six years ago the spirit of progress struck our people, and, though not now on a boom by any means, the place has been steadily growing until its population of a few hundred has reached two thousand or more. Many new and beautiful homes have been erected, old ones on the way and many are contemplated and kept back by the scarcity of building material. Among the many and valuable additions in the way of new buildings and enterprises is the Chapel Hill hotel,