

GROWING TOWNS.

Hendersonville, Hickory and the Flat Rock Section.

Happy Homes and Prosperous People—Internal Improvement and Commercial Importance.

The recent rapid growth and development of Western North Carolina towns is worthy of remark when the fact is taken into consideration that only a few years since these same towns were but mere hamlets or villages, containing but few, if any, of the industries and enterprises that have since given them name and fame in the outside world.

Such has been the case with HENDERSONVILLE.

Twenty-seven miles south of Asheville on the line of the Asheville and Spartanburg road lies Hendersonville, the county seat of Henderson. It is a live progressive town, containing 2700 inhabitants, and is 2250 feet above sea-level. The town is laid out in squares of two acres each, its main streets 100 feet wide and two miles long. They are clean, dry and well shaded, and no matter how heavy a rain may fall, there is no mud or standing pools of water to vex the patience and spoil the wearing apparel of the pedestrian.

Hendersonville is quite a model town; its inhabitants are active, progressive people, all earnestly working together for the common development of the resources of their very pretty town. One thing needful, however, to rapidly promote this development, is the erection of hotel suitable for the reception and entertainment of the thousands of guests who annually, winter and summer, frequent the town and surrounding country. A syndicate, it is said, has been formed to build such a structure at an early day—possibly completing it by the opening season.

The State Bank of Commerce, Dr. G. H. P. Cole, president; Capt. M. C. Toms, cashier, and J. A. Maddrey assistant cashier, is an institution that has done a great deal to upbuild the commercial importance of Hendersonville of late. The bank's authorized capital stock is \$500,000; paid-up capital \$30,000. A general banking exchange and collection business is transacted by the institution.

Hendersonville is under democratic administration with Mr. V. L. Hyman, a prominent young attorney, as mayor. The town council is composed of Messrs P. E. Braswell, J. Williams, J. S. Barnett, W. A. Hood and W. A. Smith; marshal, B. B. Jackson.

Among the hotels and boarding houses, the Globe, Dr. T. A. Allen, proprietor; the Alpine, W. C. Stradley, proprietor; the Exchange, P. S. Brittain, proprietor; Virginia House and Mountain House are the most prominent. The Globe hotel is owned by Capt. W. M. Coker, jr., of Asheville, and is perhaps the best kept as well as the most desirably located hotel in Hendersonville.

There are four white and two colored churches located here, and the denominations represented are Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist.

Leading physicians are Drs. C. Few, J. L. Egerton, J. G. Waldrop, T. A. Allen, T. R. Egerton and William Reece, while the legal profession is represented by Messrs. W. A. Smith, V. L. Hyman, S. V. Pickens, M. W. Egerton, A. E. Posey, E. R. Memminger, W. E. Erwin, T. J. Rickman and D. Stradley. Dr. Wexler Smathers and Chas. McDowell are dentists with large practice. The general merchandise business of Hendersonville is very large during a year, and is about evenly divided among the following firms: Barnett, Hood & Co., J. P. Rickman, R. H. McGuire, Fletcher & Maunder, W. H. Ray and M. M. Shepherd.

Other firms doing business at Hendersonville are C. Few & Co., and J. L. Egerton & Co., druggists; A. E. Fletcher, wholesale groceries; D. Stradley & Son, fancy groceries and confections; M. Sherman, liquor dealer; M. T. Justus, hardware and harness; B. F. Staggs, tinware; Staggs & Justice, stoves; W. G. B. Morris, books, stationery, etc.; Mrs. A. E. Hart and Mrs. W. A. Smith & Co., millinery; Justice & Lyda and H. D. Carter & Son, butchers; Chas. Sunofsky and W. B. Pitt, boot and shoe makers; G. P.

Liverett & Co., J. S. Stephens, J. A. Bryson and Joseph Israel, livery.

The Hendersonville Manufacturing Co., is located at the A. & S. depot. Dr. Wexler Smathers is president, and the company turns out spokes, hubs, handles and staves in large quantities.

The steam Manufacturing Co., T. J. Israel, president, also does a big business in the way of manufacturing sash, blinds, doors, dressed lumber, etc.

Judson College, the denominational school of the Western North Carolina Baptists is located here and is presided over by Dr. R. H. Lewis, a noted educator of the east, who has recently been elected to the presidency of the institution. Hendersonville also has good public and private schools under the control of competent and thorough teachers. Mr. W. B. G. Morris is the postmaster, and Messrs. Davis Bros. publish one of the best weekly newspapers in the west—The Times.

The liquor license as fixed by the board of commissioners is \$1,000 per year, added to which the Federal and State tax makes the total amount \$1,225 per annum that a saloon-keeper must pay before he can engage in the business of selling liquor in Hendersonville.

There are many fine residences in and around Hendersonville, notably among which are those of Congressman Ewart, Capt. M. C. Toms, Gen. Bainbrig, Maj. James Anderson, Rev. G. S. Jones, C. M. Pace, S. V. Pickens, B. G. Gaden, J. Williams, Maj. Selden and others. One mile south of the town is the Urquhart place, the former home of Mrs. James Brown Potter, the celebrated actress. It is a magnificent situation. Another very pretty place is that of Mr. Preston F. Patton, a short distance from the town, with its fine old grove of oaks, winding drives and walks, to say nothing of the elegant old mansion now undergoing repairs and remodeling. "Dun Cragin," the home of Congressman Ewart is an attractive and beautiful home—one of the most pleasing locations around Hendersonville.

Work upon the new water-works system for the city has been commenced. The project will cost \$20,000 and when completed the system will furnish a supply of 250,000 gallons.

The Mud Creek drainage is fast nearing completion, and the watercourse commissioners, Dr. T. R. Egerton, P. F. Patton and E. R. Memminger, are entitled to great praise for the splendid manner in which this great project has been so rapidly carried forward. Twenty-one thousand acres of fertile farming lands have been reclaimed by reason of this work and will next year be placed in cultivation.

The county officers of Henderson are: Senator M. C. Toms, Representative John G. Grant, Sheriff T. C. Israel, Clerk Superior Court C. M. Pace, Register of Deeds W. H. Stepp, Treasurer J. Williams, Surveyor A. L. Patterson, Coroner J. M. McMinn. Mr. A. Cannon is chairman of the board of county commissioners, the other two members being Mr. B. F. Posey and Dr. R. L. Freeman. The total valuation of real and personal property listed for taxation is \$1,757,497. The county pays a general tax of \$4,393,744; a school tax of \$600; pension tax \$675.02; contains 209,796 acres of land; 1,465 white polls, 177 colored polls, and the rate of taxation is 88 cents upon the \$100 worth of real and personal property.

Henderson is rich in mineral and agricultural wealth. Her credit is good and her people are prosperous and happy. Long may that happiness and prosperity continue is THE DEMOCRAT'S wish for our friends to the south of us in Henderson and Hendersonville.

THE FLAT ROCK COUNTRY.

About three miles south of Hendersonville is Flat Rock, a section already become famous by reason of its being the summer home of many wealthy and influential Charleston and other South Carolina families, who yearly every Summer leave the "City by the Sea" for their North Carolina home.

There they stay till about the first of October and then back to Charleston they go, sure to return again the next summer. They drive, and dance and fish and hunt, and in many other ways delightfully pass away the summer days. These homes are all finely situated and not a few of them are really elegant. The scenery is grand, and alto-

gether a scarcely more desirable place could be found in the Western North Carolina mountains at which to "kill time in pursuit of pleasure."

A first-rate hotel, kept by Mr. M. S. Farmer, is located here, which enjoys a heavy patronage during the summer and autumnal months. The fare is good, delightfully served, and the rooms and beds are models of cleanliness and comfort.

The Flat Rock Canning Co., Mr. P. W. Hart, Superintendent, is a concern that bids fair to make Flat Rock in future more famous than ever. All kinds of fruits and vegetables are put up in a superior manner, and the sale of these goods abroad is becoming quite a feature. This season the output of the factory has been larger than ever before, and a greater number of hands have been given employment. The plant will be enlarged during the coming year, and many improvements will be added, brought about by reason of the largely increased business of the company. The fruit and vegetables put up at this factory are said to be far superior in taste, freshness and perfection to those put up by Northern concerns. The supply of peaches, apples, pears, grapes, cherries, tomatoes, peas, beans, etc., around Flat Rock is almost inexhaustible, and prior to the establishment of the factory had, to a great extent, been allowed to rot and waste. Now, there is a good demand for the entire crop, and good prices are paid at the factory for all fruits and vegetables delivered in good condition. The agricultural resources around Flat Rock are abundant, and many good farms may be seen bearing evidences of a high state of cultivation.

PROGRESSIVE HICKORY.

Among the leading towns along the line of the Western North Carolina railroad Hickory stands pre-eminent. With a population of nearly three thousand people, two railroads, electric lights, Piedmont Wagon Works, two Colleges of high grade, besides excellent private schools, one of the finest hotels in the South, a new opera house to be completed by Christmas, a fine bank building, manufacturing of various kinds, fine church buildings and private residences, the best brass band in the State, elegant business houses, a first-class newspaper and printing house, etc., a visitor can find much to interest him about the bustling, business town.

The chief features of Hickory, however, are its splendid Inn, the Piedmont Wagon Works, the Hickory Manufacturing Co.'s plant, its new bank building, and the opera house.

First, the Hickory Inn, under the management of Mr. Frank Loughran, formerly of Asheville, assisted by Mr. M. S. Clark, lately connected with some of the leading hotels of the Northwest, is deserving of especial mention, none the less because of its handsome and unique exterior than for its magnificent and superbly decorated interior, and splendid bills of fare. The rooms are all carpeted with Brussels and Moquette, the furniture of native hardwoods, lighted both by gas and electricity, and supplied with hot and cold water. The dining room, richly frescoed and furnished in hardwoods, is delightfully arranged, and the service is beyond reproach. The main office is unlike that of any other hotel in the South in arrangement and attractiveness, while the parlor on the second floor cannot be excelled in richness of decoration or comfort in equipment. The store-rooms, pantries, kitchen, etc., are supplied with all modern improvements and appliances, and it is worth a day's visit to Hickory to inspect this well-conducted hostelry. The bar, in the basement, is supplied with all varieties of superior grades of liquors and wines, and is in charge of Mr. P. A. Morquardt. Andrew Mullen, the chef at the Inn, is also an artist in his line, and the fame of his celebrated quail on toast has gone abroad in the land. The table is supplied at all times with all the delicacies of the season, and proprietor Loughran is conducting one of the best hotels in the Southern States. Hickory is the dinner station of the Western North Carolina Railroad, also, and passenger trains coming west from Salisbury stop at the Inn each day at 1.32 p. m. The arrivals at the Inn since Mr. Loughran assumed the proprietorship, have averaged thirty per day, and a large winter patronage is expected. Quail

shooting has become quite a feature about Hickory, and many Northern sportsmen have taken up their quarters at the Inn for the season. Altogether the Inn is a model hotel in every particular, and Mr. Loughran deserves much credit in supplying the traveling public with the excellent accommodations his place affords.

Everybody has heard of the famous "Piedmont Wagon," manufactured here by the Piedmont Wagon Co. A visit to the works is a pleasant and instructive recreation. Thousands of these wagons are manufactured each year, and a large number of hands are employed. Nearly all the work is done by machinery of the latest pattern, and nothing but the best material is used in the construction of the Piedmont wagon. J. G. Hall is President of the company.

The new Bank of Hickory building is one of the handsomest in the State, and its interior decoration, furniture and fixtures are of the highest order of finish and quality. The Bank does a large business. M. Mer-shon is President, D. W. Shuler, Cashier.

The Hickory Manufacturing Co.'s new plant is one of the most complete establishments of the kind we have seen, and the volume of business transacted by the company is enormous. Additional buildings and machinery have recently been added to the plant, and further extensive improvement is contemplated in the near future. This company is manufacturing at present the interior finishings, stairways, newels, etc., for Mr. Richmond Pearson's new residence at "Richmond Hill."

The electric light plant gives great satisfaction, and is in almost universal use in the town. Mr. Jas. G. Martin is President of the company, and the plant is a first-rate one. The lights are good and no trouble is experienced by customers in the way of perfect illumination.

The new opera house when completed will be an ornament and credit to Hickory. It is on the third floor of a handsome three-story brick building, and is owned by a stock company. The scenery is being painted by Mr. F. A. Grace, an artist of considerable skill and fame. The hall will seat about twelve hundred people and will be supplied with the most approved mechanical effects, stage fittings, opera chairs, etc.

The Hickory Printing Co., Mr. H. A. Murrill, President, publish the weekly Press-Carolinian, an excellent paper, besides doing all other varieties of printing. Their establishment is well equipped, and very good work they turn out.

Leading business houses in Hickory are E. L. Shuford & Co., Hall Bros., Chase Bros., Link, McComb & Co., O. M. Royster & Co., Field Bros., Latta & Beard, Seagle Bros., Wagner & Killian, etc.

Claremont College and the Lutheran College are also located at this place. Both are institutions of high grade and enjoy enviable reputations.

The professions are liberally represented, and each licentiate seems to be doing a good practice. Four churches with large congregations are here—representing the Baptist, Lutheran, Episcopal and Methodist denominations. Two trains a day each way pass Hickory over the Western North Carolina road, and one train a day each way over the Chester and Lenoir narrow-gauge road adds much to Hickory's railway facilities and importance as a railway town.

All kinds of local industries and business are carried on extensively, and the people are wide-awake and progressive. The town is on a big boom and is growing rapidly. Its importance is increasing as a commercial centre and a few years more will find it second only in rank to Asheville of all the towns west of Charlotte. THE DEMOCRAT is glad to record Hickory's progress and development. It deserves to succeed because of its pluck, push and perseverance. It will succeed because of the indomitable will and united energies of its people to place it where it justly belongs—in the front rank of North Carolina towns.

The child's soul is more tender than the finest or tenderest plant. It would have been far different with humanity, if every individual in it had been protected in that tenderest age as befitted the human soul which holds within itself the divine spark.—J. Froebel.

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