

THE ASHEVILLE DEMOCRAT.

VOL. 1.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1889.

NO. 7.

To the People.

We wish weekly information from every section of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee, of any or all manufacturing or mining enterprises established, or improvements to those existing, improvements in agriculture, especially results of new experiments in agriculture in this section; of schools, churches, Alliance and other orders or associations for the good and up-building of the people. Send us short, plain statements, as often as may be. THE DEMOCRAT desires to be the medium of announcing to the world the improvements in the social and material development of this section.

Mr. T. Hunnycutt has been appointed postmaster at Marshall.

Mr. D. H. Reagan, of Weaverville, has been appointed a notary public by Gov. Fowle.

Over five hundred negro families left Kinston, this State, Saturday, for the West. Poor people.

Supt. McBee and Mr. David M. Vance left Monday night to attend the Fayetteville Centennial.

The West Point Terminal Company is preparing to purchase the Rome, Ga., and Decatur railroad.

Mr. W. S. Cushman, who has been North for some weeks on important business, returned home Saturday night.

Messrs. Charles N. and Arthur E. Jenks, of Massachusetts, have established a real estate and insurance business in Asheville.

At a negro frolic near Rutherfordton Friday night a general row took place in which two negroes were shot, one seriously. Several others wounded.

We regret to hear of the serious illness of Dr. W. L. Reagan at his home in Weaverville. His many friends sincerely trust he may soon recover.

The Carolina Athletic Club and Pisgah Lodge, K. of P., both of which the late Edwin Weddin was an esteemed member, passed suitable resolutions of respect to him. A more deserving young man never lived in Asheville.

The Greensboro North State calls the Washington Post "independent." Will the North State kindly define its own political status for us? If the Post is independent, in a partisan sense, we believe we like the independent characteristics of the North State better.

Mr. George H. Smithdeal fell through a trestle near Swannanoa tunnel one night last week, hurting his leg right severely and incapacitating him for work. He has gone to his home in Salisbury, and it is hoped will soon be able to resume his duties at Black Mountain station.

The Waynesville Courier warmly endorses the proposition of THE DEMOCRAT that the State Fair should rotate, and that the next one should be held in Asheville. What say our business men? It is for them to say whether we shall have grounds and buildings suitable for such a purpose.

We had the pleasure of a visit this week from our young friend, Mr. H. A. Banks, city editor of the Charlotte Chronicle, who was on a visit to his mother in this city. Mr. Banks was formerly a resident of Asheville, and his many friends and relatives here are always pleased to see him.

Two British steamers left Wilmington one day last week for Liverpool direct, one carrying 8,000, the other 5,176 bales of cotton, so we learn from the Review. This is direct trade we are pleased to read about. Wilmington is growing rapidly as a cotton and shipping port, which is pleasing to all North Carolinians.

The Morganton Herald says: "The Dunavent Manufacturing Company are running their fine cotton mill on full time, and are consuming large quantities of cotton. The demand for the product of the mill is greater than they can supply, and we understand that they contemplate running day and night in a short time."

The Herald also says: "Mr. Lackey informs us that these are now 4,000 men at work on the C. C. C. railroad between the North Carolina line and Ashland, Ky., a distance of 120 miles. McDonald, Shay and Dunavent have the contract for the grading of the entire 120 miles, and have sublet it to numerous contractors. Mr. S. D. Dunavent, of Morganton, has a large contract this side of Johnson City, and is working 400 hands."

Criminal Court.

Is in session this week, Judge Moore presiding. Solicitor Carter and all the officers are promptly at their post. State against Fore for killing Lunsford will be taken up to-day. Berry, for killing Bell, will be taken up later.

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

Hon. A. S. Merrimon Succeeds the Late Justice Smith.

From the Raleigh Call of Saturday evening last we learn that on that morning Governor Fowle appointed Associate Justice A. S. Merrimon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, to succeed Hon. W. N. H. Smith, deceased. On the reception of the official notification, Justice Merrimon resigned the position he was holding to accept the appointment. He will be sworn into his new office on next Monday.

The resignation of Justice Merrimon created a vacancy in the Associate Justiceship, and the Governor appointed Judge Walter Clark to that honorable position. He has resigned from the Superior Court Judiciary to accept the appointment.

Judge Clark's resignation caused a vacancy in the State Judiciary to be filled. It is authoritatively stated that the Governor has written Mr. Spier Whitaker tendering him the Judgeship made vacant by Judge Clark's resignation. He is expected to return from Wilmington to-night. It is not known whether he will accept the appointment or not.

Under the provisions of the law, all these appointments hold over till the next general election for members of the Legislature. This election will occur in November, 1891, and in consequence of the action just taken, it will be necessary for the State to elect three judges, viz.: Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, one Associate Justice, and one Judge of the Superior Court. It is therefore probable that the election of 1891 will be fraught with almost as much interest as the regular quadrennial election for State officers.

A Useful Farm Scraper.

Besides conducting with signal success the great interests of the First National Bank of this city, President Breese is also something considerable of a farmer. THE DEMOCRAT has already mentioned that from about three acres of land Capt. B. gathered the past season over 1300 bushels of elegant Irish potatoes. He immediately had the land thoroughly plowed and prepared, and sowed in grass, which is up and looking beautiful. But it is in regard to an implement used in the preparation of this land, an invention of Capt. Breese's, which is the special object of this article. It is a scraper, and as a scraper it is the greatest success of the age. We cannot describe it exactly, but it is made of planks, with cross pieces upon which the driver stands, and by shifting position the driver can run the scraper over any ordinary obstacle, inclines, or in any way the shape of the ground may require. It is very cheaply constructed, and is really a useful implement. Farmers would do well to call and examine this scraper, for it is one of the most useful implements a farmer can have.

Free Mail Delivery.

We are at last to have the free postal delivery for which we have been qualified for several years, indeed ever since the act was passed by a Democratic administration giving it to towns of 10,000 inhabitants or \$10,000 gross receipts of the office. We have long since passed both requirements. Our population is estimated at 12,000 and the gross receipts of the office are upwards of \$13,000 per year. The lack of space and facilities for distribution in the old office prevented its earlier introduction. There will be five letter carriers. There will be three deliveries and five collections. The system will be in operation by the 15th of January. Mr. Chas. R. Darby, Post Office Inspector, was in the city last week and made the necessary arrangements. There will be thirty letter boxes placed throughout the city.

Wilmington, Raleigh, Charlotte and Asheville are the only towns in the State which have the system. Winston-Salem, it is said, is qualified and has applied.

Cotton Stalk Bagging.

The Baltimore Manufacturers Record says: "Mr. J. M. Forshee, Secretary of the Chamber of Industry of Wilmington, N. C., was in Macon, Ga., recently exhibiting samples of half-inch rope made from cotton stalk fibre. According to the Telegraph, he also had a sample of 2 pound bagging made from the same fibre. Mr. Forshee announces that machines have been invented for stripping the stalk and manufacturing the fibre into bagging, and that the cost of the manufactured article will not be more than four cents per yard. One acre of cotton stalks will furnish fibre enough to make bagging enough to bale five bales of cotton, and as this is about five times as much as is needed the excess will be used in manufacturing rope and for various other uses to which jute is now put."

Railroad Projects for Asheville.

There can be no doubt but that with proper, united action on the part of our people, Asheville will soon rejoice in the possession of additional railroad facilities. On Friday night a goodly number of our citizens met in the court house, chairman G. S. Powell of the Board of Trade presiding, primarily to appoint delegates to a meeting in the interest of improved roads to be held at Leicester on Saturday next. Our people are greatly interested in this, as all other meetings in the county looking to better roads leading to this city. Resolutions heartily endorsing it and pledging co-operation, were adopted, and the following delegates were appointed:

During the meeting President Atkinson, of the Atlanta, Asheville and Baltimore road, made a lengthy and very encouraging statement concerning this magnificent enterprise. Capt. A. had but recently returned from New York where he had been engaged with some of the largest capitalists of that city, who gave the enterprise close consideration. Since his return he has received most encouraging assurances. It is impossible to overestimate the great value of this proposed line to all Western Carolina and the South; the Baltimore press regarding it as one of the most important enterprises yet proposed. When completed it will make the shortest, most direct line from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore to the South, opening up a country very rich in timber, mineral and agricultural resources, but little touched at present. The line is being carefully examined now by gentlemen of the amplest means, and Capt. A. is highly encouraged to believe that matters will take tangible shape before very long.

On the same evening another most interesting event occurred. It was the presentation of a petition signed by directors of the French Broad Valley Railroad Company, which proposes to construct a railroad from Asheville to the South Carolina or Georgia line through Transylvania county; also a petition by directors of the Asheville and Bristol Railroad Company, which proposes to construct a road from Asheville directly north to Bristol, Tenn., there to connect with the Norfolk and Western, the Louisville and Nashville, and the Atlantic and Danville Railroads; each petition praying that the question of subscribing \$50,000 to each of said corporations be submitted to the voters of Asheville. The proposition is that no bonds shall be issued to either road until the same shall be completed, equipped and regularly running from Asheville to the limit of the line in Buncombe, work to be begun at Asheville within a short while, and if not completed within twelve months to said Buncombe limit to forfeit and pay to the city of Asheville \$5,000 cash, which sum is to be deposited when the bonds are voted. This certainly looks like business; the proposition is backed by able, responsible men of New York and Asheville who say they mean business and a great deal of it. The city council took the matter under advisement, to be decided at a special meeting to be held Wednesday, 20th inst.

These meetings and movements certainly indicate that Asheville and Buncombe are moving in the matter of more railroads and better road facilities. Our people cannot move too earnestly or promptly in these matters. The Lord helps those who help themselves. Let us all unite and strike while the iron is hot.

The city authorities passed a resolution last night pledging moral support to all these roads.

Punkin Pie.

In order to be truly loyal on our National and State Thanksgiving Day (28th inst.) all well regulated families will have pumpkin pie. Here is a receipt for making them, furnished by a noted chef: "Mash and prepare the pumpkin; mix with it two eggs, a teacup of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, a half a cup of sweet milk, grate in a half a nutmeg and stir with a spoon until well mixed. "Pour a sufficient quantity into a pan in which ordinary pie pastry has been put and cook until brown and crisp."

One Touch of Winter.

The first touch of winter for this season visited us Saturday. It is such little spurts as these which impresses all who sojourn in this section with the splendid weather we generally have, and have had all the fall until Saturday. We will have some more of that delicious balmy weather in a few days—that is, we generally do.

Thanksgiving.

Occurs next Thursday. As has been customary here the stores will be closed to give all the people an opportunity to give thanks for the blessings vouchsafed all by a kind and indulgent Providence.

CHIEF JUSTICE SMITH DEAD.

He Passes Away After a Brief Illness—Preceded by a Feebleness From Overwork.

Chief Justice Smith, of the State Supreme Court, died to-day at 12 o'clock m. For the past three days he had been completely prostrated from a combination of heart trouble and overwork. For ten days past he has been regularly attending the sessions of the Supreme Court, but was compelled from weakness to recline in the court room nearly every day, and was frequently compelled to go home before the sessions were over. On Monday of this week he became unable to attend the sessions, and has been prostrated at his residence on Halifax street ever since.

Since the beginning of this violent illness, there has been a latent, serious apprehension among his intimate friends and acquaintances, but they were not prepared for the end. The announcement that he was dead was almost stupefying. As the report flew over the city, people caught their breath, and it was some time before they could subjugate their wishes and hopes to their knowledge.

As soon as the announcement was made, all the State offices were closed, and the city hall bell was tolled for some time. The sonorous, melancholy tones carried with them a sadness to the utter limits of the city.

The Supreme Court will formally sit to-morrow morning and will adjourn until next Monday.

The Raleigh bar will take appropriate action on the sad occurrence to-day. William Nathan Harrell Smith, the eminent jurist, was born in Murfreesboro, N. C., September 12, 1812. His father was William L. Smith, a native of Connecticut. His mother was Miss Ann Harrell, of Hertford county. The death of his father occurred in 1813, in Murfreesboro, where he was held in high repute as a physician.

Chief Justice Smith graduated at Yale College in 1834, and afterwards studied law at the same place. He began practice in this State and continued it, till 1870, when he removed to Norfolk, Virginia. After remaining there for two years he returned to North Carolina and has resided in Raleigh since that time.

He was for awhile associated with Hon. Geo. V. Strong in the practice of law, and the law firm of "Smith & Strong" was widely and prominently known.

The only office he held, in the line of his profession, before his appointment to the Supreme Court bench, was that of Solicitor for the first Judicial district. This was in 1848-49. In 1840 he was a member of the General Assembly in the Lower House. In 1848 he was elected to the State Senate. In 1857 he was the candidate of the Whig party for Congress in his district, but was defeated in that campaign. In 1859 he was again a candidate and was elected. After going to Congress Mr. Smith was put forward by the Southern Representatives as their candidate for speaker of the House. After a struggle of many weeks of tedious balloting, in which he lacked only one vote of election, he was defeated by Mr. Pennington, of New Jersey. He was a member of the Confederate Congress during the entire existence of that body.

In 1865 he was a leader in the State Legislature in the reconstruction under the plan of President Johnson.

He was very prominent in the famous impeachment case of Governor Holden, and led the defence against the management of ex-Governor Bragg. His closing speech made a pamphlet of over seventy pages, and was a masterly production of logic and legal learning. This address stamped him as one of the greatest lawyers and one of the most acute reasoners in his profession in the country.

The degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him in 1873 by Wake Forest College. The same degree was conferred by the State University in 1875, and by Yale College in 1881.

In 1878 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by Governor Vance to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Chief Justice Pearson, and had been twice elected to the same position by the people since.

His fidelity in the discharge of the duties of this office have been a matter of general comment.

Among noted men at Yale College with him were Chief Justice Waite, of the United States Supreme Court; William M. Evarts, Secretary of State, and Edward P. Pierpont, ex-Minister to Great Britain.

In 1839, he married Miss Mary O. Wise, daughter of W. B. Wise, a prominent merchant of Murfreesboro. They had three children, two of whom survive. They are Mr. W. W. Smith, of

this city, prominent in insurance circles, and Mr. Ed Chambers Smith, an eminent young lawyer, also resident here.

Judge Smith was one of the most courteous and pleasant gentlemen. A modesty and purity of character were his chief characteristics. He was lovable and widely loved. He was a man in the purest and broadest sense of the term, and was withal a gentleman.—Raleigh Call.

To the City Authorities.

Editors Democrat.—The attention of the city authorities is called to the condition of the sidewalk, or mud hole, on Woodfin street, between Oak and Charlotte. About four weeks ago the street railway company threw a mound of dirt from the road upon the sidewalk, for a distance of about 200 feet, barely leaving room for one foot passenger between the fence and this ridge of mud. Every time it rains this dirt has washed down on the walk until the latter has become a veritable mud-hole, scarcely fit for a hog to wader in, and totally unfit for ladies or gentlemen to pass through. The city authorities should see that this mud is removed at once, that they have not done so before has been a cause of wonderment to the public and does not speak very well for their administration.

Attention is also called to the mud hole at the corner of Bridge and Woodfin streets. There is no crossing at this place and pedestrians, are obliged to plough through mud ankle deep. A good cross walk should be placed at this point immediately.

That the city of Asheville should be so indifferent and negligent of her sidewalks and streets is a great pity and a public disgrace. We will wager that there is not a city of its size east of the Rocky Mountains that can boast of such wretched sidewalks. If the property owners have not public spirit or pride enough to lay good walks, the city authorities should compel them to do so, as I understand they have the power to do. Nothing will help build up the town more, or serve to induce visitors to stay here, than good substantial walks. Let there be a general and a speedy move in this direction. A VISITOR.

A New North Carolina Enterprise.

Building and Loan Associations are now recognized as among the most useful agencies for the upbuilding of towns, and aiding poor people to obtain homes. Recently the North Carolina Building and Loan Association, of Charlotte, was organized, with the following officers: O. P. Heath, President; W. M. Wilson, Vice-President; Walter Brem, Secretary and Treasurer; Osborne & Maxwell, General Attorneys; J. J. Hill, of Asheville, Supervisor of Agencies. The Board of Directors comprise the leading business men of Charlotte.

It is authorized to do business in any part of this State, and is conducted in strict accordance with the laws of this State. Though organized but a few weeks ago, Supervisor Hill has already established local agencies in a number of places. He will return to Asheville soon for a like purpose.

Hickory Opera House.

The statement in "Growing Towns," of last week, that the Hickory Opera House was the property of a joint stock company, was an error. It is being erected by and will be the exclusive property of the enterprising Hickory firm of builders, Elliott & Elliott, who have expended every effort to make it the most comfortable and most complete opera house in the State. It will be completed by Christmas week and, together with our new and splendid opera house in Asheville, which will also be soon completed, will make Western North Carolina an attractive place for traveling companies.

Our New Express Agent.

Mr. W. G. Haughton, who has been for some years connected with the Southern Express Company in Charlotte, has been promoted to superintendent of the office at Asheville, and will leave on the 20th inst. to take charge of the office there. The Asheville people will find Mr. Haughton, a tip top man. He is one of the most thoroughly qualified express agents in the service of the company, and is a courteous official and a perfect gentleman in all respects. His departure from Charlotte will be regretted by our people. Asheville will find him just as we have described him.—Charlotte Chronicle.

Rev. Dr. Mitchell.

THE DEMOCRAT is pleased to learn from the Baptist:

"A letter from Dr. John Mitchell contains the gratifying intelligence that he has decided to accept the call to Hendersonville, and that he will take charge of the church there the 1st of January. This is good news, and we feel thankful that so good a man and so faithful a pastor is coming among us again."

THE GOLD EXCITEMENT.

The Recent Find in Montgomery County a Bonanza.

A Salisbury, N. C., special to the Richmond Dispatch says: "The four experts who went from here last week to see the Tebe Saunders rich gold find in Montgomery county have returned, and report that the first thought or wild tales about the find is true. There has not been fifty dollars worth of work done on the find, and from a reasonable calculation \$150,000 worth of gold has been taken out. The gold was first found by a man who was turkey hunting. It was told, and then hands flocked there and went to work, paying five-eighths of the gold they found as a royalty. One man was thought to be dishonest and did not pay all that was due. He was stopped from working and went off saying that he did not care about any more, as he had all he wanted. He is known to have nine pounds of gold now. One man on last Saturday panned only twenty minutes and panned two thousand pennyweights of gold. Two men worked a day and a half and cleaned up ten and a half pounds of gold. The find is on a high hill above a branch. The surface appears to be full of fine quartz stringers in depth, which form into pockets, some of which are two-thirds gold. Where the gold is found and has been worked does not cover more than a quarter of an acre, but it appears to get richer in depth; and the gold can be seen sticking in the quartz stringers from the top of the gopher holes. The land belongs to a brother of Tebe Saunders, who is in Texas. Tebe has gone to buy it of him. The owner has been informed, and is expected here to look after his find. In the meantime there are two factions who want to work the property. The result is that all work has stopped and the factions are standing guard and will not let any one strike a lick or wash a panful. The find is the richest ever known, and is near the property of several large English companies, who have spent large sums there. The gold is coarse, and some nuggets weigh from one hundred to five hundred pennyweights, while others hold the quartz together so that it can be bent and twisted. The find is in an old pine field that was in cultivation before the war, and is owned in fee simple by Saunders, hence claims cannot be laid off like in the West.

Another Great Structure for North Carolina. Along with the talk of the great castle to be built by Geo. Vanderbilt, near Asheville, at a cost of probably one million dollars, comes reports of a magnificent structure to be built in the East. The Wilmington Messenger talks about it and has seen "specifications and drawings of a magnificent hotel for winter tourists, which a syndicate of capitalists proposes to erect on the sea coast of North Carolina on the line of the projected Cape Fear and Cincinnati Railroad. It is to cost about \$1,650,000 and will be surrounded by a plaza similar to the Plaza de Armas around the residence of the Governor General at Havana, Cuba. It is designed to contain 350 rooms, and will be equipped with the Turkish bath, cold and hot salt water baths, bowling alley, gas works, etc.

"Six hundred and sixty acres of land near the ocean has been selected for this hotel. A hundred acres of it will be laid out into pretty parks, while the remainder will be set aside as a preserve for hunting, fishing, etc., for the benefit of guests. It is said the Gulf Stream flows closer to this location than any other portion of the American coast and that the mean temperature during the winter never gets below 48, nor above 85 in Summer, as shown by observations taken during the past three years."

Another New Enterprise.

THE DEMOCRAT announces with pleasure the establishment of another important and useful enterprise in our city. Our townsman S. Hammerschlag has opened a shoe factory, at his double store on North Main street (next door to Farmer's Warehouse), where he is turning out daily a large number of the very best hand-pegged shoes. He proposes to retail these shoes at wholesale prices. We wish this, as all other enterprises, the fullest success, and are pleased to learn that Mr. H. is most pleased with his prospects.

Mr. Orr's Body Found.

Sunday evening the body of Mr. William Orr, drowned some weeks ago near the mouth of the Swannanoa, was found, near the place where he sank. It was recovered, and the burial took place Monday. The untimely death of this young man was exceedingly sad, and his good parents were deeply sympathized with by all.

There are 28 ex-Confederate veterans in North Carolina poorhouses.