

NORTH WILKESBORO NEWS.

DEVOTED TO THE UPRUILDING OF NORTH WILKESBORO, WILKES COUNTY AND THE MAGNIFICENT VALLEY OF THE YADKIN.

VOL. I.

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NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C.

A NEW CITY ON THE YADKIN AND REDDIES RIVERS, IN WILKES CO.

A Full Sketch of its Location, Beauty of Scenery, Mineral Wealth and Prospects—An Invitation to Visit this Magnificent Country.

The Company has purchased one thousand acres of rich land of great intrinsic value, almost every part of which is available either for business or residence sites. This valuable property is on the North side of the Yadkin river and East side of Reddies river, one mile North of Wilkesboro, the county seat of Wilkes county, North Carolina.

The extension of the North Western North Carolina R. R., a branch of the Richmond & Danville system, has just been located in the centre of the Company's property. The location of this strategic point just where the high Brushy and Blue Ridge mountains form a geological trough, and through which must pass all the great thoroughfares of railroads between the East, West, North and South. Here in the earliest days crossed the great thoroughfares from Virginia, North and South Carolina to Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. The old stage tavern, one hundred years old, has just been torn down to make room for a modern hotel. The instinct and the woodcraft of the pioneer marked with unerring skill the highways which the learning and the instruments of the engineer who followed him have only verified and corrected. Over the lines he traced, great railways now run, connecting all parts of the United States, bringing the people of the whole country into the most friendly intercourse and uniting them in the bonds of common interest, arising from profitable interchange of commodities. The officers of The Winston Land and Improvement Company have selected the name of North Wilkesboro for their town, and it is confidently believed there is a combination of ability, energy and experience in the board of directors of this company that will carry to success its every undertaking.

SITUATION OF THE NEW TOWN.

The town of North Wilkesboro has been located in the heart of the great Alleghany mineral belt, seventy-five miles west of Winston; forty miles north-west of Statesville; one hundred miles north-east of Asheville; one hundred miles east of Bristol, Tenn., and eighty miles south of the Norfolk & Western Railroad. The choice of the site was influenced in the first place by the fact that within this stretch of a hundred and seventy-five miles between Winston and Bristol, some important centre of industry and population is bound soon to be developed by the progress of the country. After careful surveys of the whole line, the particular locality of North Wilkesboro was chosen as surer than any other to secure to its settlers the advantage and profits of such a development.

THE SITUATION OF THE LAND.

Because of the lay of the land, the town site is a parallelogram comprising one thousand and eighty acres; a segment of beautiful and fertile valley, bounded on the North by the Blue Ridge and on the South by the Brushy mountains. The town site slopes gently down from the foot hills of these mountains, forming in the center a level, inviting railroad transit; the trend of the valley here is nearly east and west. Height of this level (which is the lowest part of the town site) is one thousand feet above sea level, while nearly in the center of the town stands a beautifully rounded knoll more than one hundred feet above the level part of the town, upon which the Company proposes to build a hundred thousand dollar hotel. This valley land has been cleared and well tilled for more than a hundred years, and dates its settlement back to the beginning of the State. As one travels westward from Winston, this point is the first that is suitable for the site of a town which may reasonably hope to attain the growth of Asheville or Birmingham. There are situations on the way which are adapted for hamlets and villages, but until North Wilkesboro is reached, none that is clearly destined by nature for a great aggregation of industries and people.

THE SUCCESS OF OTHER NEW TOWNS.

The success of other new towns (many of them with less than half the natural advantages of North Wilkesboro) in the South, dating from 1871, has been phenomenal, even in an age of industrial improvement. Birmingham, on grounds cultivated in corn in 1871, is now a city of fifty thousand inhabitants with industrial establishments paying one million dollars per month for labor. Anniston, within whose corporate limits there was not a human habitation in 1872, has eighteen million dollars invested in manufacturing enterprises and improvements. New Decatur, Sheffield, Florence, Bessemer, Roanoke and Fort Payne are other instances that might be cited, and these are not all, to illustrate the fact that, under conditions existing at North Wilkesboro—capital and skill united in the development of the mineral, timber and agricultural resources of this section—are certain of the richest rewards that come to well directed enterprise. The Elyton Land Company, by which Birmingham was founded, was organized with a capital of two hundred thousand dollars in 1871, and this has never been increased. For eleven years no dividend was declared upon its stock—its profits having been devoted to improvements. Its single shares of one hundred dollars have sold as high as six thousand dollars. Since 1883 its dividends have exceeded six millions of dollars. The original investments in Anniston in 1872 was one hundred and forty thousand dollars and a fifty-ton charcoal furnace. This capital, its profits from year to year having been put into new productive enterprises, had grown to six million dollars in 1887.

TOWN LOT PROFITS.

Two years ago Fort Payne, Ala., had twenty-five inhabitants. To-day five thousand busy working people call it their home. Fort Payne business lots were at first sold at two hundred dollars—they are now selling at five thousand dollars. One North Carolinian, on a capital of five thousand dollars, has made, in two years, sixty thousand dollars in Fort Payne town lots. Millions of money has been made on town lots in Roanoke, Va., in the last eight years. To give some idea of the big advance in prices, a few figures are given below: A business lot in Roanoke which, in 1882, sold for \$500, was sold recently for \$15,000. Other Roanoke lots, which originally cost from \$150 to \$400, have been sold at prices ranging from \$6,000 to \$20,000. Lots in Winston, N. C., which sold fifteen years ago at \$150, have been sold for \$15,000 to \$18,000, and land near Winston has advanced from \$5 per acre to one thousand dollars per acre in the same length of time. North Wilkesboro's natural advantages in mineral, timber, water power, scenery, climate and agricultural resources are superior to many of the above named places.

NORTH WILKESBORO.

Is situated on the north side of the Yadkin river, one mile north of Wilkesboro, the county seat of Wilkes county, North Carolina, in the beautiful and world-renowned Yadkin Valley, the scenery and climate of which are not excelled in the most favored sections of the United States. North Wilkesboro lies at an altitude of one thousand feet above the level of the sea. Malaria is unknown; the atmosphere is clear and bracing, and during summer months a blanket may be used with comfort almost every night. Comparatively little snow falls during the winter season, which is usually mild and dry. In fact the immense number of health and pleasure seekers who annually visit Western North Carolina is the best evidence that can be adduced of the favorable character of the climate and the beauty of the mountain and river scenery of this region. From the hill-tops of this favored spot may be seen a stretch of more than a hundred miles of the Blue Ridge, Brushy and Black mountain ranges. Pilot, Hawk's Bill, Table Rock, Roan, Grandfather, Mount Mitchell and many other peaks may be seen lifting their heads more than five thousand feet above sea level. Such grand mountains are seldom seen in this or any other country.

PLAN OF THE CITY.

Numerous broad, well-graded avenues and streets; a public square, park, engine house, market house, graded school, fair grounds, manufacturing sites and a church building lot for each denomination will be reserved and donated free of cost. Business, homestead and villa site lots will be sold privately and at auction. Electric lights, water works and sewerage system will be established as the town develops, and everything will be done to build up a large and thriving city at North Wilkesboro.

Are you an investor? Are you a business man? Are you a professional man? Are you of the arts and trades? Are you a manufacturer? Do you wish to establish a mercantile business where the trade of five counties will pour in upon you?

Do you desire to change your field of practice? Do you want to make a sound investment? Do you wish more lucrative employment? Do you want to cheapen the cost of manufacturing? Do you want a new home?

PROPOSITION.

To obtain the promptest return for your investments you must look elsewhere than to the larger cities. This fact needs no demonstration. Rather seek a new place which by virtue of its natural advantages and surroundings cannot fail to grow to large proportions. Start with such a town and participate in its triumphs. There is not a place in the whole South that can offer equally as good inducements to every class of industry as North Wilkesboro. Why? First, you must recognize the fact that the New South, for many years to come, will be the field whereon the mighty commercial forces of the country will be engaged. The South is, and ought to be a section of the United States susceptible of more growth and greater development than almost any other part of the Union at the present time. The vast variety of her productive possibilities have hitherto been but little known. But now, keen-eyed science, commercial instinct and the tireless energies of wealth-seeking enterprise have sought her riches and are inviting investors to sources of profit, never before available in that direction. New England was the first to realize that its capital must seek elsewhere for the income formerly derived from investments in another section of the country. The West was not slow to discover the value of Southern venture, and these two leaders, uniting with the South, formed a trinity of inestimable wealth and unprecedented strength. Every one is familiar with the rapid strides made by the South in the last decade, yet but a step has been taken, only a foundation laid. From now henceforth the progress will be greater still.

Do you desire to share in these benefits and profits?

CLIMATE.

Health is of primary importance. No matter what powerful inducements a town may boast above all others, the matter of health must first be considered. North Wilkesboro is in the mountain region of Western North Carolina, one thousand feet above the level of the sea. The mean temperature for the year is about 58°. There is no fever or malaria here. There is health in every breath, strength in every breeze. North Wilkesboro has a gracious climate, tempered to all constitutional conditions in summer and in winter, making this spot in every way desirable and advantageous for the thousands of people who are looking for new homes and another start in life away from limited chances which have hitherto circumscribed their endeavors with the slowly moving population of the Union.

WATER.

Another important factor in the matter of health is that of pure water. Sparkling and cool, never failing and in quantity sufficient for a city of a hundred thousand population, is supplied by a number of large, ever-living springs, while the supply for water power, sufficient to run a hundred factories and for water works, is furnished by the bold, clear, never failing Yadkin or Reddies Rivers. There are with-

in a radius of ten miles of North Wilkesboro twenty mineral springs, iron, chalybeate, sulphur, arsenic, alum, lithia, cathartic and magnesia. Many of these springs have been noted for their remarkable cures for the last half century.

SEWERAGE.

No where will greater care be exercised in all matters relative to the health of the place than in North Wilkesboro. Every precaution will be taken, the utmost vigilance will be observed in all sanitary matters. Sewers will be constructed for carrying off all filth into the Yadkin or Reddies Rivers.

WATER WORKS.

A survey for the water works is now being made. The water will be pumped by water power to the reservoir on the top of a hill one hundred feet above the town.

HOTELS.

It is proposed to build at North Wilkesboro one of the finest hotels in the South, approximating in cost one hundred thousand dollars. The style of the building will be Italian—made attractive by some French detail. It will be three stories high, with hipped shingle roof, long verandas and hanging balconies. It will have one hundred and thirty rooms, including many fine apartments. The day is not very far off when North Wilkesboro, by the force of her natural advantages, will become a summer and winter health resort, not only for people from States South of Virginia, but from the North as well. One has but to live here through one summer and one winter to fully appreciate all the advantages of this climate. In such a climate and such a hotel, furnished with every comfort that money will buy, and communication with the whole world by telegraph and railroad, elegant drives through shaded nooks or over mountain sides. What more could heart desire? This magnificent hotel will be in the center of Kensington Park, near the railroad station, overlooking the city, and from its balconies may be seen the Yadkin River, winding through the valley for miles, while from the tower a grand panorama will unfold itself in the stretch of hill and mountain in every direction. Just over the hills to the North and West rises the giant domes of the Blue Ridge and Black Mountains. The valley is a natural path for breezes of summer and the hotel will stand in the center of the air current—standing above the level of the valley the air will be free and pure; the drainage will be perfect. The travelling public now find ample accommodation at the Hotel Gordon, already built, a house whose table is unsurpassed, a reputation acquired by careful and constant attention to its cuisine.

HOUSES.

North Wilkesboro presents a diversity of sites for home building. The range of choice is a wide one, and no matter which way one may go there will be found pleasant locations for homes. Cool and shaded retreats, commanding and lofty elevations, smooth and level plats, near or far removed from the busy streets—any choice can be made. The residence portion of the city surrounds the business center, and one cannot go amiss in any direction. No particular section of the town leads in pleasant homes, each side of the valley seeming to have an even representation. North Wilkesboro does not boast of any picturesque ruins or ancient weather beaten, moss covered antiquities—everything is new, clean and wholesome.

MINERALS.

The mountains round about North Wilkesboro seem almost bursting with mineral treasure. The Winston Land and Improvement Company have just bought four thousand acres of these mineral and timber lands. Gold, silver, copper, zinc, manganese, red hematite and magnetic iron ore in abundance, feldspar, kaolin, fire clay, glass sand, potters clay, granite, soap stone, serpentine, asbestos, mica, limestone, plumbago, ochre, amber, pipe clay, sandstone, brick clay, and other valuable minerals are found here. Before the late war there were several old fashioned iron furnaces in Wilkes county. The one owned by Capt. Lovell's grand-father was on Mulberry

Creek, five miles from North Wilkesboro. The ore bank from which this furnace was supplied is now being opened up and it is said that a charcoal furnace will be built very soon. A northern nail manufacturing company has offered to take the entire output of this furnace. Placer gold mining is now carried on to a considerable extent in the northern part of this county. We want to develop all kinds of minerals and manufacturers to convert iron into all kinds of iron goods. Foundrymen, machinery manufacturers, stove, agricultural implement, hardware, axe, shovel, hoe, horse shoe, nail and paint factories will pay here.

TIMBER.

North Wilkesboro is in the center of the greatest hardwood timber belt in America. The conditions are most favorable for forest growth, and the greatest variety of timbers and woods are found within the surrounding country. The territory has never been lumbered to any extent, the nearest railroad being forty miles distant until the completion of a branch of the Richmond and Danville Railroad from Winston, N. C., in August, 1890. Therefore the greater part of this section remains an unbroken forest, as it was when the first settler came to this country. Among the varieties of wood are yellow pine, hickory, yellow poplar, holly, sweet gum, black gum, white pine, cherry, birch, maple, white poplar, beech, linden, black walnut, basswood, chestnut, cedar, ash, persimmon, dogwood, sourwood, post oak, white oak, black oak, spanish oak, red oak, chestnut oak, turkey oak, locust, cucumber, sassafras, mulberry, sycamore, mountain laurel and spruce pine.

The yellow pines occupy a prominent place, being well distributed over the land. The next in importance is poplar, oak, walnut, hickory, locust, cedar, chestnut, linden, white and spruce pine. Many tall pines here will scale a thousand feet to the tree. White pine is abundant and of fair quality. The oaks form a large share of the product, there being seven varieties. The oak is very sound and tough, especially adapted to the manufacture of plow handles, carriages, wagons, carts, cars, agricultural implements, and bending works generally. Black oak has a very fine grain when finished and is more brash than white oak, and is suitable for inside trimmings for houses, car works, furniture of all kinds, and staves. Spanish, red, turkey, chestnut, water oak and post oaks may be used where black oak is suitable. Chestnut is very abundant and valuable for posts, fence rails, telegraph poles, inside work and furniture. Next comes hickory for all kinds of bent work in carriages, wagons and carts, agricultural machinery and handles; the supply and quality for factories in this line would last for years. Red hickory is a fine lumber for house finishing. White wood or poplar is very abundant here, and of good quality, both white and yellow. It is easily worked into lumber at small cost and is desirable for wash boards, buckets, tubs, furniture, coffins and inside work. Black walnut is more plentiful here than any where else in the State and is valuable for furniture, inside work and coffins. Gum, cherry, maple, beech, birch and basswood are plentiful, and make fine furniture and inside work. Cedar, ash and linden can be obtained cheaply and of good quality, valuable for buckets, tubs and wooden ware generally, household and kitchen furniture, inside house work, handles, agricultural machinery and coffins. Sourwood, dogwood and persimmon are plentiful and are used for shuttles, bobbins, spools for cotton and woolen factories. Locust is very plentiful and is much used for fence post and telegraph poles. Millions of chestnut oaks are abundant throughout this entire section, enough bark could be obtained to supply a dozen steam tanneries for years.

COST OF LUMBER.

QUANTITIES.	FIRST.	SECOND.	THIRD.
Yellow pine, 1000 feet,	\$ 8.50.	\$ 7.50.	\$ 6.00.
Oak, "	10.00.	8.00.	6.00.
Yellow poplar, "	10.00.	7.50.	6.00.
White poplar, "	8.00.	7.00.	6.00.
Chestnut, "	8.00.	6.00.	5.00.
Hickory, "	12.00.	10.00.	8.00.
Ash, "	15.00.	13.00.	10.00.
Cedar, "	18.00.	15.00.	12.00.
Walnut, "	25.00.	20.00.	16.00.
Maple, "	18.00.	16.00.	13.00.
White pine, "	8.50.	7.00.	6.00.
Dogwood, "	16.00.	14.00.	12.00.
Persimmon, "	16.00.	14.00.	12.00.

BUILDING MATERIAL.

There is no place in the South where the cost of building material is more moderate, by reason of the facility of supplies, of material and labor. None of the great young cities which have grown up of late years in this country have enjoyed, at the start, such advantages in this respect. The sources of lumber supply are all around the town, the hills are full of granite, sandstone, sand and brick clay in abundance.

MANUFACTURING THAT WILL PAY AT NORTH WILKESBORO.

Saw mills, sash, door and blind factories, brick making, terra cotta pipe works, paving block factory, granite works, paper mill, cotton and woolen factories, foundries and machine works, railway car works, furniture factories, coffin factories, wagon and carriage factories, spoke and handle factories, plow handle factories, paper mill and paper bag factory, rope works, bagging factory, match factory, trunk factories, knitting mill, steam tanneries, (chestnut oak bark only costing \$2.50 per cord, delivered.) Shoe factory, harness factory, leather belting factory, stove works, agricultural implement works, woodenware factory, (to manufacture buckets, tubs, washboards, stepladders, &c.) Inside house furnishing factory, shuttle, spool and bobbin factory, wood excelsior factory, barrel factory, well bucket factory, hame factory, roller flouring mill, wood pulp factory, pottery and earthenware factory, tobacco factories, tin and holloware factory, straw hat factory, broom factory, bent wood factories of all kinds, cheese factories, fruit and vegetable canning factories.

FACILITIES FOR MANUFACTURING.

The most essential requisites for successful manufacturing are: An ample supply of raw material at low cost. An eligible location with economical conveniences and favorable surrounding conditions for the home and satisfaction of labor. Ample shipping facilities and proximity to the consumer. The Yadkin and Reddies Rivers, flowing through North Wilkesboro, afford ample water for rafting the millions of logs that are now on the hill and mountain sides, and millions of water power for manufacturing purposes. Railroad sidings will be built along the front of manufacturing sites, and the sites themselves, lots for employees, and capital, will all, as circumstances seem to justify it, be furnished on most satisfactory terms. Through the medium of the great Richmond and Danville Railroad and the Richmond Terminal System an enormous territory is reached and its markets made tributary to the manufacturers of North Wilkesboro. Favorable through rates of freight will be made to every important town in the South, North, East and West. The policy of the Richmond and Danville Railroad has ever been recognized as most progressive and liberal, and the policy has been the most important factor among the many influences which alone built Winston, Durham and Asheville, and which have been at work in the development of the wonderful riches of North Carolina and of the upbuilding of the now numerous manufacturing towns and cities which mark its course from end to end.

HOW TO REACH NORTH WILKESBORO.

From all points call for your tickets via Greensboro, N. C., which is just one hundred and three miles east of North Wilkesboro. If through tickets are not on sale then buy your ticket to Greensboro, N. C., and buy a local ticket from there to Wilkesboro, N. C.

AGRICULTURE.

No city can grow to great proportions and remain prosperous which has not a good farming country to draw from. Cheap subsistence holds too important a place in the affairs of men to be easily set at naught. From the rich lands of Wilkes, Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany and other counties, West of the Blue Ridge, will come great supplies of fruit, fat cattle, butter, cheese, honey, hogs, sheep and poultry, and from the never failing fertile valley of the Yadkin will pour in enough grain, meat and vegetables to feed a mighty city.

TRUCK FARMING.

The concentration of population affords a regular and stable

market for the products of the truck farmer, fruit grower, poultry raiser and dairyman. Their most liberal and steady patrons are the skillful wage earners, factory hands, carpenters, brick masons and miners; those who earn good wages and spend the same freely for their table supplies.

FARMING.

Farming is profitable in this section of North Carolina, even by the old method, slip shod go as you please policy. Hundreds of men, who at the close of the late war had not a dollar in the world and not a foot of land, are to-day wealthy farmers. The valley soil is a deep black loam that produces an average of fifty bushels of corn to the acre, and worth from forty to one hundred dollars per acre. Corn usually sells for seventy-five cents per bushel. Such a thing as a crop failure in this section is unknown. The table, rolling, hill and mountain side lands are also very fertile and produce twenty to thirty bushels of wheat to the acre. The land is especially adapted to the cultivation of corn, oats, rye, buckwheat, clover, timothy, orchard grass and rich, yellow tobacco; this county having received the first prize on bright, rich, yellow tobacco at the World's Fair, in Vienna. Tobacco is one of the most profitable crops and often pays a farmer from two to five hundred dollars per acre.

STOCK RAISING AND DAIRYING.

Stock raising has for years been one of the great industries of the surrounding mountain section. Grass is a natural growth of this section—wild mountain grass, clover, blue grass, timothy, orchard grass and red top all do well. The cattle, hogs, horses and sheep fatten on these grasses and are driven to market and sold on foot. The fine grades of cattle, the Jerseys, Alderneys, &c., flourish as readily as the more hardy native born. The flow of milk and the yield of butter is as abundant as in any section, and the universal existence and general distribution of cold, clear free-flowing springs make this an almost ideal dairy country.

FRUIT GROWING.

This broad Union does not afford a better, never-failing, ever keeping fruit section than this—western New York not excepted. Apples, pears, peachés, plums, apricots, grapes, cherries, strawberries, whortleberries, persimmons, chestnuts, walnuts, hickory nuts, blackberries and cranberries all do well. The apples are of a very fine flavor and keep through the winter.

POULTRY RAISING.

This section of North Carolina seems to be a natural home for the fowl. The earlier settlers found the woods swarming with wild turkeys, pigeons, ducks and partridges. The domestic fowls do well also. Immense quantities are now raised. In some instances artificial hatching, or the use of the large incubators, is resorted to, and invariably with great success, but in spite of the present extent of the industry and the large quantities of eggs, chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese marketed, the demand is far from being met by the supply.

There is every requisite here for successful poultry raising, and no more profitable field for it can be found in any country.

LANDS.

Lands for stock raising and dairying, truck-farming, farming, and fruit growing, sell within an area of one to twenty-five miles of North Wilkesboro from fifty cents to one hundred dollars per acre. There are thousands of acres over-lying the ore beds that are fertile and susceptible of large yields and easily brought into cultivation.

The workman, mechanic and business man can certainly find a fitting field in this section for their labor and their enterprise. Millions and billions of wealth is here dormant in nature's greatest, richest store-house.

OF COLONIZATION.

From the North and the North-west farmers and others are looking to the Middle-South in great numbers, and immigration thither has year by year increased, under conditions never the most favorable. This company will take steps to secure low rates of travel to make known the advantages Western North Carolina affords; to organize excursion parties, and

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