

PER CAPITA wealth of Gaston County is \$1,611. Population 51,942; total wealth, \$82,975,749.

GASTONIA DAILY GAZETTE

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ALLEGED THAT SHIPPING BOARD WASTED LARGE SUM OF MONEY

Committee Appointed Months Ago, Headed by Republican Congressman, Makes Public Its Report in Which the Charge is Made That Shipping Board Wasted Millions of Uncle Sam's Money - Former Employees Testify.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—Charges that the activities of the shipping board have resulted in an enormous waste of government funds are contained in a report submitted to the house committee on shipping board operations by two former employes of the board, A. M. Fisher and J. F. Richardson, who for more than a year have conducted an investigation for the committee.

The report, released for publication today by the committee, of which Representative Walsh, republican, Massachusetts, is chairman, states that the investigators found evidence of graft in the purchase of supplies for repairing government-owned ships, of corruption on the part of officials and employes of the shipping board emergency fleet corporation, and of the use of political and other influence in the negotiating of contracts for construction and allocation of vessels.

The investigators grouped their observations under seven general heads, representing various phases of the shipping board's activities. They declared that improperly drawn contracts had cost the government a huge sum, that some divisions of the board had failed to co-operate efficiently and that others had failed completely to function properly.

The report charged that payrolls had been padded by some of the firms which

repaired government-owned vessels and that there had been a heavy loss to the government as a result of wholesale thefts of supplies and equipment from ships. The investigators also reported to the committee that companies operating government vessels had in some instances owned stock in companies which furnished supplies to the ships at prices ranging as high as fifty per cent above wholesale costs.

Discussing the allocation of ships the report states that "investigation of companies or applicants for assigned or allotted tonnage seems to be more or less haphazard with the United States shipping board."

Mr. Richardson, one of the investigators, was formerly connected with the shipping board's department of investigation. Mr. Fisher was at one time connected with the federal trade commission. He states, in presenting the report, it was "designed to be constructive and helpful to the shipping board, rather than destructively critical."

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.—Commander A. B. Clement, assistant to Admiral Benson, was summoned as one of the witnesses today before the congressional committee investigating alleged corrupt practices in the United States shipping board.

PLANS COMPLETED FOR RED CROSS ROLL CALL

Canvass For Memberships Will be Made Next Monday and Tuesday - Important Meeting of Workers to be Held Thursday Afternoon - Annual Reports of Home Service Secretary and Public Health Nurse.

The local plans for the handling of the Fourth Roll Call of the American Red Cross are developing satisfactorily. The dates set by the Gaston Chapter for the more intensive work are Monday and Tuesday, November 15 and 16. Mrs. J. Lean Adams, assisted by twenty-five or more workers will canvass the residential section of Gastonia. Mrs. Adams and her co-workers will meet in the Red Cross room Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

Miss Nell Pickens is directing the work of the county and already it shows a high state of organization. The general chairmen of the different townships are as follows: Miss Pearl Harrelson, Cowders Mountain township, with workers appointed at Sunnyside, Mountain View, Long Creek, Bakers Mountain, Stung Mill, Warts, Oange Mill, Gambrell Mill, and town sections of Bessemer City; Miss Meta Gifford for Belmont township, who will canvass the local workers in Belmont. Workers having been secured for New Hope, Union, McLean, South Point, Thayer, Tacknasege, Mayworth, Mrs. I. W. Bradley, local chairman, McAdenville; Lowell; local chairman, Mrs. G. F. Lewis, Mrs. D. P. McLeod, for Cherryville township, others having been secured for Danahall, Blacks, Fairview, Fallmans, Eakers school, Landers Chapel and Hickory Grove. Miss Ida Rankin for Riverbend township, with Miss Grace Kohn as chairman for Mt. Holly; Miss Bessie Moore for Hickory Grove, Miss Kathleen Dunn for Riverbend and Miss Rosa Della Rogers for Lucia.

The Finance Committee of the Gaston County Chapter under the chairmanship of Mr. D. M. Jones, has been called to meet in the Red Cross rooms Thursday afternoon, November 11th, at four o'clock.

The public will be greatly interested in the reports published in this column from the Home Service Secretary, Miss Georgia Copeland and from the Gaston County Red Cross Public Health Nurse, Miss Alice L. Ward. No stronger claim upon public support could be presented than the simple record that is thus prevented. The Rev. J. W. C. Johnson, chairman of the Fourth Roll Call of Gaston County may be reached at the rooms of the Red Cross chapter over the post office by telephone 857-J.

Report of Home Service Secretary.

The records of the Home Service Section of the Gaston County Chapter of American Red Cross show that from November 1, 1919 to October 1, 1920, four hundred and twenty-eight men formerly or at present in the service of the United States army or navy, were rendered assistance and a total of four hundred and eighty-nine families were dealt with.

The present Secretary took active charge of the work August 2, 1920, succeeding Miss Mae Tatlock. For the two months of August and September twenty eight new cases came up for service and assistance. One hundred and thirty interviews were given; over 200 letters were written for the ex-service men; twenty visits were made; three ex-service men were furnished financial assistance; hospital treatment secured for five; medical examination for 8 by our local examiner; allotment and refund secured for two whose claims have been on file for over a year.

We assisted Mr. Manning and Dr. Hope, Federal Vocational Field Representatives, who were here in August and September to locate about sixty ex-service men for examination for vocational training. These men were wanted to complete their applications for vocational training.

We are trying to get all the ex-service men to reinstate their insurance before December 31, 1920, this will be to their interest, especially since they can do so without an examination.

We have assisted the lady field clerk in getting the ex-service men to make application for victory medals, and the office is now charged by the government with the responsibility of aiding the men to secure these medals.

I wish to mention the fact that the last six applicants for assistance and service have been tuberculosis patients, for whom we are trying to get hospital treatment.

GEORGIA COPELAND,
Secretary

SUNDAY NIGHT TRAGEDY IS STILL FAR FROM BEING SOLVED

WILL ACT AS HOST OF PRESIDENT-ELECT AND MRS. HARDING



The Senator plans a real vacation trip which will take him to Texas, where he will spend two weeks in seclusion and then a week sight-seeing on the Panama Canal. In Texas he will be the guest of F. E. Seelye, who was a leader of the Harding pre-convention campaign, and has been the Senator's personal friend for many years.

ORIGINAL STORY AS TOLD MORE GENERALLY BELIEVED THAN WHEN FIRST HEARD

Police Are Ferreting Out Every Possible Clue That Will Lead to Identification of Negroes Who Made Habit of Holding up Automobile Parties at This Point - Story of Victims of Tragedy is Given More Credence by Public Than at First - Miss Beatty Better This Morning.

Out of the mass of conflicting rumors and reports concerning the death of young John Ford and the shooting of Essie Beatty Sunday night on the Gastonia-Bessemer City road, this fact seems to stand out as the most important feature of the day's developments so far, viz.: that the story as originally told by the three principals, Ransom Killian and the Beatty and Grice girls, is substantially correct, and that two negroes were disposed to doubt this story on the ground that it was too horrible and too gruesome now believe it. Police and county officials admitted this morning that, although they doubted the first story, they now believed it.

This change in public opinion has been brought about by a number of circumstances. One is the steadfastness with which the wounded girl, Essie Beatty, sticks to her story, in spite of every effort to shake her testimony. Another is the number of reports that are coming to the police of frequent, similar holdups alleged to have taken place at this spot within the past month or two. Naturally, a number of these reports are nothing but wild rumors, inspired by some irresponsible party who wishes to get in the limelight. But, out of the mass of these tales and stories, officials have arrived at the conclusion that there has been a gang of negroes, evidently working in pairs, who have been guilty of holding up auto parties at this place. No murder has ever taken place, however, and the most mysterious part of the affair is why such a tragedy should have been enacted if the negroes were only after money as was the case on numerous former occasions.

The newest developments in the case today from this angle include the tale told by two young men of the Gray Mill section, who claim that they were held up by two negroes in this spot Sunday night, October 31, and that their girl companion was assaulted, and the tale that comes from a former Gastonia woman now living in Belmont. This woman was in town this morning, having been brought to Gastonia by Belmont officials after she had made statements that might be considered worth while evidence. She claims that while out riding one night last summer with her daughter and a young man friend, the party was held up in this same patch of woods and that they were relieved of their money, but that nothing untoward or threatening took place. This woman claims to be able to locate and recognize the negro or negroes who were guilty. Her story is given some credence by the police, and it is being investigated.

Physicians now hold out hope that she will recover. She talked very coherently and intelligently this morning.

The whole affair is one of the most baffling and mysterious that the police of this city, or any other North Carolina city, have had to grapple with in a long time. Certain phases of it remind officials of the notorious Montgomery-Owens case in Charlotte more than a year ago.

Sheriff Carroll and Chief Orr, however, are slowly but surely running down every possible clue. They are determined that not the slightest shred of information will go uninvestigated.

MISSING BANK CASHIER GIVES HIMSELF UP

(By The Associated Press.)

BUTLER, Ga., Nov. 10 — A. L. Hendricks, former cashier for the Bank of Mank, for whom a nation-wide search was instituted after he disappeared from Mank, in Taylor county, early in October, allegedly "short" \$18,000 in his accounts, returned yesterday afternoon and filed a petition in the superior court asking for an injunction to prevent bank officials from disposing of any of his property and setting out that he owes the bank nothing.

At the time of his disappearance it was charged that Hendricks in addition to the alleged \$18,000 shortage at the bank had borrowed approximately \$8,000 from other parties, all of which was unpaid.

So far Hendricks has offered no explanation for his disappearance.

MR. HARDING TO BE ARMISTICE DAY ORATOR

(By The Associated Press.)

POINT ISABEL, Tex., Nov. 10 — President-elect Harding deserted golf for tarpon fishing again today, cancelling a tentative appointment at the Brownsville Country Club golf course to remain on the water all day, trying his luck with the rod and reel.

Yesterday's try at tarpon angling made him a staunch devotee of the sport and his friends predicted that during the remainder of his vacation here he would give very little time to any other form of recreation.

Tomorrow Mr. Harding is to speak in Brownsville at an armistice day celebration and he may go into the city early and try out the country club links before delivering his address.

SECRETARY COLBY TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRAZIL

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10 — Definite announcement having been made that Secretary Colby shortly will visit Brazil and Uruguay to officially return visits to this country of Presidents Braum, of Uruguay, and Pessoa, of Brazil, it was expected today that the secretary and his party would sail within two weeks. No date of departure has been announced.

After President Wilson had issued a statement that he had directed Secretary Colby to make the trip "on my behalf and in my stead," Secretary Daniels announced that the dreadnaught Florida of the Atlantic fleet, would be placed at the disposal of the state department party.

President Wilson in his statement said he would be gratified if Mr. Colby accepted the invitation extended by Argentina to visit that country.

GYPSY SMITH, JR., PREACHED SERMON FULL OF PATHOS AND ELOQUENT APPEAL

More Than a Thousand People Hear His Second Sermon at the First Presbyterian Church Tuesday Night - Services Today at 3 P. M. and 7:30 P. M.

After a day of rest with friends at Lenoir, where he recently held a successful meeting, Gypsy Smith, Jr., preached his second sermon of a series which is to continue through November 21 to a congregation estimated at about 1,200 people at the First Presbyterian church Tuesday night. The spiritual tone and deep solemnity of thought, the bits of personal testimony and glimpses of Gypsy history throughout the sermon, created an atmosphere that excluded the world and all its soridities. A splendid chorus choir under the able direction of Mr. Allen rendered the beautiful gospel songs in a most pleasing and acceptable manner. Mr. Allen will sing and direct the pupils of the West school in singing Thursday morning at the chapel exercises and will be heard at the East school Friday morning. He was heard with pleasure by the pupils of the Central school during chapel exercises this morning at 8:45.

The services for today and the remainder of this week, as announced from the pulpit Tuesday night, will be held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and at 7:30 o'clock at night. A few more soprano voices will be a welcome addition to the choir and all who sing are cordially urged to come each night to the choir entrance on the north side of the church. A large delegation of former converts of Mr. Smith's meetings motored over from Lenoir for the Tuesday night services. Delegations from churches, schools, factories, lodges and communities are cordially invited to attend any and all of the services at 7:30 o'clock each night.

Mr. Smith took for his subject Tuesday night a text from the 43rd verse of the first chapter of John. "Follow me."

Mr. Smith said that the great, personal, pungent command of Jesus Christ to men was "Follow me." All through His ministry we find this emphasized. I presume that the great part of those present are Christians, or, perhaps I should better say, are members of some branch of the church of Jesus Christ; but suppose I were to come to you and, knowing your life and the profession of Christianity that you make, and still knowing that your life was not in keeping with the teachings of Jesus Christ, I were to ask you, "Are you a Christian?" I think I can imagine the flush rising into your eyes as you might turn to me and say, "Mr. Smith, what do you take me for?" And yet I presume there are thousands in your city who are labelled by the name of Christian who have no right to the title at all.

What is it that makes a man a Christian? Is it joining some church, or conforming to some creed, or partaking of the symbols of the sacrament, or being thoroughly conversant with creeds? No, Paul summed it up very correctly when he said, "If any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of His." Are your words, thoughts, actions, controlled by the spirit of Jesus Christ? Because the Bible says, "If I say I have fellowship

with Him and walk in darkness, I lie and the truth is not in me." I could baptize you in any manner that you may wish and I could administer to you the sacred sacraments of the church, but if you ever become a Christian it won't be the work of any man, but of God's wholesome, beautiful, winsome, Holy Spirit.

So that my question to you is this, Are you following Him. And if you say, "I am not quite sure," will you let me try and help you, for that is what I am here for; not to usurp the pastor's place — I could not do that, for my work is only made possible by the faithful, consistent work of your pastor. But there used to be an old game that we Gypsy children used to play after the day's work was done and the horses had been watered and bedded for the night, a game called "Follow your leader." After we had selected our leader, whatever the leader did we had to attempt. If the leader tried jumping over a fire-barrel gate, we had to try it. If the leader should attempt to jump a ditch and fall in the middle, we had to do it too. If we didn't the children would call us quitters and would leave us out of the next game.

That may be a very crude illustration, but I want to say to you that if we in the church of Jesus Christ are not making a wholehearted, honest attempt to follow Jesus Christ, then we are not playing the game, and one of the great reasons today why so many people are not attracted into and by the church of Jesus Christ is not because they don't revere God or care for His Son, but because they hate the caricature of Jesus Christ that they see in the lives of so many of us who call ourselves by His name. They thought Him wherever He was, and they know the Christ of Calvary and they also know that God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved, and they are not going to be won for the church unless you and I are made beautiful and winsome by His Spirit. If you want to know whether you are following Him, go to His life and see what He did and the motive that prompted His life and His work, and you will see that in the beginning of His ministry He turned to those who were dearer to Him than any other in the world and said, "Don't you know that I must be about my Father's business?" To Mary, yes to Joseph, and even to His relatives who had come for a long distance and could certainly claim some part of His time and attention, but He who was the light of the world placed God first.

Is He first in your thoughts? What was your first thought this morning? Was it what shall I wear? Or was it to say, "Oh God, I thank you for another day of life, health, strength and opportunity of serving You and humanity?" For that should be the thought of God's

WARNED NOT TO BUY GOODS IN COLUMBUS

(By The Associated Press.)

COLUMBUS, Ga., Nov. 10.—Circulars printed in big black letters warning the merchants of Phenix City to buy no more goods in Columbus until street cars connect the two cities, were placed under the doors of all retail stores there last night. "Ship from Opelika, Alabama," the circular says. It is believed to be the work of night riders or whitecaps. The Chattahoochee river divides Columbus and Phenix City.

FUNERAL OF JOHN FORD IS HELD IN LINCOLNTON

Victim of Tragedy Operated Moving Picture Show - Reported to Have Received Warning Letter.

LINCOLNTON, Nov. 9 — The funeral of John Ford, age 22, who was killed Sunday night near Gastonia was conducted this afternoon in the Methodist church of this city by his pastor, Rev. J. T. Mangum, assisted by Rev. Dr. W. S. Wilson. A large number attended the funeral from town and county and the floral offerings were beautiful and numerous. The remains were buried in Holybrook cemetery in this city.

He is survived by his parents, Mrs. P. B. Ford of this city, two sisters and three brothers.

The manager of the moving picture show this city and in this capacity was widely known and had numerous friends.

Nothing new has developed here as tending to show who killed the young man. An anonymous letter is said to have been received by Ford about three or four weeks before his death. A local citizen stated today that Ford showed him this letter. In substance he says the letter warned Ford to be careful where he went and what he did, that he was in very great danger if he did not act very cautiously. The writer of the letter stated, according to this man, that he was a stranger to Ford but attended his picture shows. The letter was dated High Shoals, but the envelope did not show a High Shoals postmark. Search is being made for this letter. It is thought this was in the dead man's pocketbook but the book could not be located today, is being supposed that the robbers secured the pocketbook. It is said that Ford did not think seriously of the unsigned letter and that he believed it was mailed in Lincolnton owing to the hour he got it from the postoffice box.

Theories and opinions as to the final outcome of the affair fly thick and fast but considerable number believe the statement of Ransome Killian, the other young man with the girls on the night of the tragedy, who is in Gastonia today testifying before the coroner's jury.

CHICAGO PLANS BIG ARMISTICE CELEBRATION

CHICAGO, Nov. 10.—Plans for Armistice Day tomorrow were announced today with proclamation issued by the mayor calling upon citizens to observe the anniversary. At 11 o'clock in the morning the city will pay one minute's silent tribute to American soldiers who died in the war.

At a signal from traffic policemen all vehicles and street cars will stop moving. Pedestrians will halt and face the east. Buglers scattered about the downtown district will advance to the middle of street corners and sound taps.

The moment will be preceded by a din of factory whistles, bells, sirens and horns.

Mustering-in ceremonies will be observed by many veteran regiments. The Red Cross and clubs will take on a military atmosphere.

(Continued on page 5.)