

**THE GAZETTE**  
Prints the News  
And Tells the Truth.  
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# THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

**THE GAZETTE**  
is one newspaper in Gaston County whose circulation is growing greater and not less.  
It Pays to Advertise in It.

W. F. MARSHALL, Editor and Proprietor.

DEVOTED TO THE PROTECTION OF HOME AND THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY.

One Dollar a Year in Advance.

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## CHILDREN IN THE MILLS.

Interesting Interviews With Superintendents and Other Mill Men of North and South Carolina.

Mill News, Sept. 10th.

Gastonia, N. C. is the county seat of Gaston county, has seven cotton mills, and takes pride in the fact that their county has more mills than any other county in the South, there being thirty-two in all.

My first call was at the Loray mills, where I met the president, George A. Gray. Informing him of the object of my visit, we proceeded to the mill, which is called locally "the new million dollar mill," and here I met the superintendent, Charles M. Dunn, to whom Mr. Gray remarked, "Show the gentleman through our mill; let him see it all, give him full information," and turning to me said, "I have an engagement up town at my office, and will be pleased to have you call, and will gladly furnish you with any data you may seek."

We then proceeded through the mill, which is a new one, and only half the equipment is placed in the spinning room, where the immense vacant space was especially noticeable, and Superintendent Dunn said: "It would do you good if you could see at times our help at play here on the floor, playing leap frog and tag and other games. We now have 570 hands in the mill and, among this number, there are not more than eight children in this room under 11 years of age. Our president is the head of three other mills here besides this one, viz: The Gastonia, Avon, and Ozark, and he has laid down the rule, "under no circumstances to employ a child under 11 years of age." We made a complete tour of the spinning room and the superintendent's figures were correct. "You will find at our other mills, the Avon employing 300 hands, and the Ozark 200 hands, whose superintendents are sons of our president, Mr. Gray, just the same condition."

**AT THE MODENA COTTON MILLS**  
I met its treasurer, J. D. Moore, and his remarks were thoroughly interesting. "I have been in the mill business in this district over thirty years, and therefore am qualified to speak intelligently on the subject. At the outset I wish to put myself on record and enter a protest to the sweeping charge that our mill help is composed of the crackers from the mountain districts. As far as this section is concerned it is hardly true. Conditions have caused some of the best connected families, those that can trace ancestry back to the revolutionary stock, to seek employment in the mills. They are of our own kin, our own flesh and blood. I know of families working in the mills, related to men prominent in the politics of our state, who have rented out their farms to tenants and moved to mill villages. Here at the Modena we have girls who have taken a course at our collegiate institutes and I predict that the day is not far off when, with their native born American talent our operatives will surely place themselves in the front rank of textile workers of the world.

As for the child labor problem, nobody seeks the solution of it more eagerly than the mill managers. I believe I am honest in saying that with a very few exceptions, isolated cases, where help is very scarce, and therefore the child's service is sought, few of our mills make a practice of using children of tender age. Instead of slavery it is becoming the era of emancipation. The farm has ceased to furnish the proper means of livelihood. The mill is giving our people the comforts of home, the opportunity for education, and the prospects of bettering their fortunes. I mean by this, a lad can make greater progress in a mill, if he has the ability, than in any industrial pursuit I know of.

"The mill is

A PRACTICAL TEXTILE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

I know of dozens of cases in North and South Carolina where men who commenced life as doffers and sweepers at eight and ten years are now presidents of large institutions self-made men. Here in Gastonia we have a striking example, George A. Gray, now the president of four of our mills. He began life in the mill as a sweeper, never attended school a year at a time in his life, yet to-day is a good scribe, book-keeper, and as you no doubt are aware, a successful business man. At 50 he is robust and in the prime of life, and is the hardest worker in our town. He can be seen

## any morning at 6, on his horse making the rounds of his mills.

I can cite many such instances as well as that of boys who have gone through the various branches of the mill, and are now superintendents of same, with salaries varying from \$2,500 to \$5,000 a year.

Words could hardly describe the Fourth of July celebration we had here. There were over 10,000 people present, the operatives from all the mills in the county participating; and the beautiful floats arranged by the mills, decorated with fabrics they made, and graced by handsome mill girls, dressed in goods that their fingers helped to make, producing a scene that was inspiring. The speeches made, the games and festivities enjoyed, the patriotism displayed, could not have been that of a people "bound by a yoke of slavery" but the outburst of a happy and contented people. We want no legislation, no interference. We are regulating the conditions as they exist in our own way. Education can accomplish that result. Let our boys and girls lead a life of idleness and it opens the way to crime and vice."

At King's Mountain I met C. E. Neisler, superintendent of three mills, Kings Mountain Manufacturing Co., employing 100 hands, Bonnie Cotton Mills, employing 125 hands, and Indian Creek Mills, near Lincolnton, employing 80 hands. He stated that not more than a dozen children under twelve were employed in these mills.

Calling at the office of the BILLING COTTON MILLS the following information, after some hesitation, was furnished me by J. N. Williams, superintendent of same, as well as the Enterprise and Cora Mills. "At the Billing we employ 350 hands, the Enterprise, 100, and the Cora 100, with not more than 25 children under 12 years of age in the three mills."

At Crowders Mountain I called on W. W. Shealy, superintendent of the Crowders Mountain Mills, employing 150 hands, and Lula Manufacturing Co., with 100 hands, having 5 children under 12 at both mills.

At Bessemer City I called at the Southern Cotton Mills where C. M. Cook, superintendent, informed me they employ 325 hands, with no children under 12 years of age. I believe that the information furnished at some of these points was misleading. These mills are small, and I understand the help is scarce, as the mill people are attracted to the larger mill villages, where social conditions, better cottages, advanced means of education, are more easily found. So that the management, in order to keep their plants completely in operation, are not over scrupulous as to the age limit. Not having been given the opportunity to make a personal inspection of the mills, this conclusion is derived from the conversation had with the livery man who drove me to the various points, and who, being raised in the neighborhood, claimed to be posted as to the conditions existing.

**Increase of Capital Stock.**  
Gaffney Ledger.

The Gaffney Manufacturing Company has increased its capital stock from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

The Gaffney Manufacturing Company was organized in 1894 with a capital of \$100,000. It has been paying a satisfactory dividend ever since it began operation, and at the same time has been steadily increasing its plant until now it has one of the largest and best equipped plants in the State. It was the pioneer in manufacturing fine cotton goods in the South, and is now building a bleachery which will include general finishing machinery, and when complete will enable the company to place its products on the market in a finished condition and thus enable it to realize for itself the profits which have hitherto fallen in the coffers of the middle man.

**Ought Not to Be Tolerated.**  
Greenville Reflector.

There! Another editor has come forward with a public confession. The Journal says "there is perhaps more profanity and vile language used on the streets of New Bern than any other town in the State." The paper then asks if parents, preachers and officers are doing their duty? Hardly a doubt but what the devil is doing his duty all right. We know a preacher who says "people who take God's name in vain, serve the devil for less pay than by any other sin imaginable."

## GAS MADE FROM WOOD.

Discovery that May Revolutionize Lighting Problem—Citizen of Raleigh in Role of Great Inventor.

News and Observer.

A gas lighting plant that may revolutionize lighting and heating is in operation in Raleigh. It is a patented process plan and because of the brilliant light, the means of making it and its extreme cheapness it has a great future before it.

So confident of this are the men who have investigated the matter that steps are being taken to form a company with large capital in order to place its advantages before the people, and furnish to the householders a gas plant on their own premises.

There was a demonstration of this plant the other day in the yard at the back of the residence of Dr. J. A. Sexton, on Fayetteville street, where there is located a little gas plant that supplies him with the best of gas light.

The demonstration showed the gas plant in operation, making gas from wood. This is done by the patented process of Dr. C. W. Bilsinger. In a retort an arful of wood was placed and from this the gas holder was filled, this containing 300 cubic feet of gas. This was made in less than an hour. At night the gas was burned and it gave a brilliant light, the flame being high, large and clear, and in a Welschback burner making the regulation white light.

After the gas is formed in the retort it is passed through water and is then collected in the iron holder. In making the gas any kind of wood can be used, hickory, oak and pine, or any other wood that is to be had. Chips and sawdust can also be used. A cord of wood, costing \$2.00 or less will make anywhere from sixty to one hundred thousand cubic feet of gas and sometimes more.

Many prominent gentlemen were present at the test yesterday and it was calculated by these that a householder with one of these plants could make enough gas to burn three or four jets each night for a month at a cost of fifteen cents a month. The plants can be arranged for simply one home, for a block, or for an entire city. The plant at Dr. Sexton's can be used to make gas for the homes on two blocks in Raleigh. A hotel or a business house using this process would find it a bonanza.

The cost of each plant depends of course on its size, and the owners have given out no figures but by others it is estimated that the plants will cost from \$200 upwards, this is of course not including the equipping of the houses with gas pipes or burners.

This gas can also be used for heating and cooking purposes. It is capable of being developed into great heat, and its extreme cheapness will cause this to be a feature where a plant is put in. The cost of the wood is a bagatelle, or is less than nothing, for after a \$2.00 cord of wood is used in the retort there is a residue of charcoal and tar that will sell for twice the cost of the wood.

Dr. C. W. Bilsinger, the patentee, is a German, who sometime ago came to North Carolina from the North. He is an eminent physician and chemist and for sometime lived at Washington, N. C., where he first put in operation his gas plant, but not the improved one he has now patented. At one time it was said that Washington was lighted by his process. Then he could make only about twenty-five thousand cubic feet for every cord of wood used. It is not necessary to run the plant every day but once a month, or even for a longer time will be sufficient.

The promise of this new process has unlimited possibilities, as demonstrated yesterday; and as shown at Fuquay Springs, where a larger plant is used, making gas jets just as brilliant as that made from coal. That the establishment of a great plant made from the manufacture of the necessary apparatus for introducing this throughout the world would be a paying investment for Raleigh capitalists cannot be doubted. It will mean that in the city and in the country each home can have a brilliant light always ready for the match, and ready to heat and to be used in cooking when it is wanted.

Sam Lindsay, 24 years of age, committed suicide at his brother's home in Rudwell, using a pistol. Death was instantaneous.

The Gazette offers for rent job printing

## FRIES' MERGER CONSUMMATED

The Capital is now \$25,000,000—Sixty Per Cent. of the Spinning and Weaving Mills of the South Consolidated—Control is Centered in a Holding Corporation—The Largest and Most Important Mills in the South in the Enterprise.

Charlotte Observer, 27th.

Philadelphia, Sept. 26.—The Record-to-morrow will say: The project to consolidate 60 per cent of the spinning and weaving mills in the South under control of a holding corporation has finally materialized and the announcement is made by one of the managers of the enterprise that the Fries plan has been adopted by enough Southern mills to guarantee the success of the proposition. The cash capital involved in the enterprise now amounts to \$25,000,000. This will be increased as fast as additional mills come into the combination.

Nearly all the largest and most important of modern spinning and weaving mills in the South are interested in the project and those that have not already signed options will do so soon as the stockholders of the several companies can be brought together to ratify agreements already made by accredited representatives.

Philadelphians directly concerned in the enterprise confirm the well authenticated reports received from the South as to the adoption of the Fries plan, but they decline to give out a list of the mills actually acquired. They stated that the control of the proposed holding corporation would be vested in representative mill men of the South. The executive officers of the holding company will also be Southern mill men. The directory of the new company will include several Philadelphia men who are prominently identified with the cotton trade, as well as a number of cotton men actively engaged in the trade in New York, Boston and the New England markets. The financial institutions directly concerned in the enterprise will also have representatives on the board of directors. The mill owners themselves, however, will control the holding corporation under the operation of the Fries plan, which gives them a majority voice in the directory as well as the bonds and preferred stock issued by the holding corporation. All the men directly in charge of the mills will be representative mill people of the South.

**HAD IT RIGHT.**

It Was Billie McGill that Brit Bolin Carried.

Yorkville Requirer, 27th.

The old gentleman who gives THE GAZETTE its interesting information seems to be somewhat doubtful about the identity of the man that Mr. Bolin carried on his shoulders from a deer hunt; but we are now able to state positively that our first statement was correct. The gentleman in question was the late Wm. McGill, father of Messrs. J. L. and L. K. McGill, of the Bethany neighborhood. Our authority this time is Mr. Lowry Bolin, a nephew of the late Brit Bolin. He lives two miles east of Yorkville and is 82 years of age. The reporter saw him in Yorkville on last Thursday and asked him about the circumstance. "Why, of course, I remember Uncle Brit Bolin," the old man said. "I have been deer hunting with him many a time. I was not there; but I have heard of him carrying Billie McGill. Billie McGill told me about it himself and once showed me the route over which they went back home. It was about two miles." Notwithstanding his advanced age, Mr. Lowry Bolin is still remarkably active in both body and mind. He planted a one-mule cotton crop last spring, and before he got through with his plowing he lost his mule. "I could not get another mule for 50 cents a day," he said, "and because I did not think I could pay any more, I went to work and dug it out with a hoe. I am calculating that I will have five bales of cotton."

**A Remarkable Case.**  
Wilmington Chronicle.

The little colored girl, three years old, that was recently shot through the head, is able to walk about again. This contradicts the idea that shooting through the brain always kills. This child was shot through the head and the brain oozed out at each side. It was thought for several days that the child would surely die, but it is about well now.

## CONTENTED MILL PEOPLE.

Healthy and Happy and Can Buy Anything From a Pint of Peanuts to a Circus—Agitators Not Wanted.

Lowell Cotton Mill News.

The article in last week's issue of the Mill News relative to child labor and the true situation of the Southern cotton mill laborer, is a worthy piece of newspaper work, and the editorial comments in the same issue are to the point and in keeping with the high ground always taken by your paper on such subjects. These articles, actuated by nothing less than a fair impulse and a desire to do justice to all parties, are worthy of the careful attention of the Southern cotton mill hands, and the result will be exposure of the Northern critics who have no moral object in view and who do not take the pains to investigate the situation, and if they did their hearts would be so black that the truth would not be given. Such articles as you are publishing will show the people that the Southern cotton mill people, as a rule, are the most contented set of people in the country. Keep the vile agitators and dirty newspaper liars away from these peaceful homes and there will be no strife. Only a few years ago if a man could not curse as though he had slept the night before with his feet packed in ice he was not a successful overseer or superintendent, but such is no longer the case.

Now, Mr. Editor, I want you to visit the Lowell Cotton Mill or any other mill in old Gaston county and let me prove to you that the children go to school, all who can and want to. We haven't the "pale-faced girl working at the age of eight and ten years from ten to fourteen hours per day;" on the other hand the people are robust and healthy, happy and contented. They get the money for their work and can buy anything from a pint of peanuts to a circus. So we want the search-light of the Mill News to keep after the contemptible agitators who don't know anything of the effects of compulsory school laws or anything else.

When you visit this mill, the McAden mills, and others in this community you will find some of the best-paid, best-behaved, most contented, church-going, school-attending people; and if you are right good-looking yourself I can show you more pretty, red-faced girls to the square acre of this domain than you can find in any other line of work in the State. If I don't I will set you up to all you can drink (nothing stronger than the sparkling water that flows from the foot of Spencer Mountain) and all the cow peas and sweet taters that you can masticate.

**Telephone Change in Shelby.**  
Shelby Star.

There was a big change in telephone circles in Shelby this week. The Gastonia Telephone Co., which is a part of the Bell system, has purchased the Shelby Telephone Company from Messrs. A. W. and Chas. L. Eskridge, the accommodating proprietors. The change will be made on October 1st. The present management has given entire satisfaction and the people of the town are anxious that Chas. L. Eskridge shall be retained as manager of this exchange when the system changes hands. He is capable and courteous and his experience eminently fits him for the place.

**New Religious Paper.**  
Wilmington Messenger, 23rd.

The Rev. J. A. Smith, of Fair Bluff, and the Rev. J. L. Viperman, of Wilmington, have begun the publication here of The Christian Soldier, which will be the organ of the Eastern Baptist church. It is weekly and the subscription price is \$1 a year.

## SPECIALTIES FOR THE LADIES.

OUR STORE makes a specialty of "Specialties for Ladies." Here we keep them—the latest, the most fashionable, the best, and therefore the most satisfactory to our customers. Our autumn display of beautiful things for women to wear surpasses even our own best record in elegance, quality, and quantity. We invite you to inspect our offerings, confident that you will find the very selection you want.

**SOME OF OUR SPECIALTIES.**

Here you will find the newest and most fashionable Millinery, Furs, Ladies' Coats, Dress Goods, Waistings, Trimmings, and all the latest designs of Appliques and All-overs. Walking skirts in black and gray. Also the popular Peco Skirts.

**MILLINERY.**

The latest and most stylish creations of the milliner's art are shown here in all their autumn glory. Just the hat you want, the style you want, and the trimmings you want are to be had here with a promptness that will please you.

**JAMES F. YEAGER.**

**BIG VALUES**

**MEN'S SUITS AND OVERCOATS**

**FALL AND WINTER, 1902-1903.**

As usual we have set the trade a-talking about the great values which we are offering in suits and overcoats. The line is complete in every department and contains many exclusive designs. We do not gamble on future deliveries but have the goods you want right in stock. See the line.

DAVIS BLOCK. **ROMAN, the Clothier.**

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**Craig & Wilson.**

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