THE GASTONIA GAZETTE and Reary Tuesday and Friday.

PURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1903.

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FOU WILL BE CONVINCED.

Squee 1. M. Hoffman, for the

specialist of removal. This the though blaned source, on the length of it we app the writer, and those he to represent, intended pose the writer, and those he claims to represent, intended this to exhaust the argument against the removal question. We do not think it was the pursue of the advocates of removal to consider a secret circular cambaign, and we say secret for the removal that it appears that this locament against removal was responsity with held from those moves to be in favor of such removal. And then again, it was stinted by a newspaper plant straids of this county and so effort made by these opponents of utside of this county and no efsect made by these opposents of
smoval to have the Gaston
county papers to publish the arcle, notwithstanding there are
so papers in Gastonia whose
obscurs are open to my one
the desires to be heard on the
mettion, whether pro or con,
ad as a proof of this fact, sevnal articles against removal
ave already appeared in these
autonia papers, and one of
seas, mannely,—the Gastonia
ews, without being requested
a do so by the opponents of reopen, devoted about three colmus of one of its recent issues of one of its recent issues man of one of its recent larger much labing the argument of Haffman, no because the diper of the News is personally street to make the laboration which after the interests of all the cities of Gaston County, and the guments and statements should open and above board.

We will now take the criti-cions and objections of Mr. Hodinan's circular, and think near a circular, and think an above the facts and rec-that they are untenable, and justified by the conditions a crist and affect it. a first criticism is that the day of April, the date fixed

election, is most incon-for the country people, makes little difference who fixed this date did
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antage to the advocates
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a majority of the votes cast, the argument is that it is unfair to ents of removal, bethe opponents of removal, be-cause the bill was not so framed that it permitted these oppo-uents to take advantage of the stay-at-home vote, so that this class of voters, who take no in-terest in the matter (and there terest in the matter (and there are quite a number of them in every election) could be counted againts removal. The Constitution provides is some peculiar cases for an election to be carried by the qualified yoters before certain measures can be legal, but where the Constitution does not prohibit it, it is not expected. So it assems that the real does not prohibit it, it is not ex-pected. So it seems that the real reason of Mr. Hoffman's objec-tion is that the opponents of re-

noval do not have this unfair And again it is objected that the expense of the county build-ings were not provided for in the act for removal, and the peothe act for removal, and the peo-ple not allowed to vote on this expense. This is another case where in Mr. Hoffman is right, the law and the Constitution are wrong, for it is provided by law, and not prohibited by the Constitution, that the Commis-sioners shall make provision for the necessary county buildings. the necessary county buildings, and the law not only allows but expects and requires them to do so, and this would have to be so, for contingencies might arise for contingencies might arise which would require their immediate erection, and the people of the county might be in a bad predicament if they had to bad predicament if they had to wait for an election to be carried by a majority of the qualified voters before they were provided for. Then he argues that by trying to remove the county seat we are doing indirectly what we cannot do directly, by creating the necessity for county buildings, which does not exist, and in this way depriving the people of the power of controlling the issue of their bonds. We have already pointed out that the erection of county buildings is considered by the law to be a necessary expense, and the right to raise sufficient funds for the purpose is vested in the county commissioners, in the county commissioners, and we are unable to gather from Mr. Hoffman's argument whether he denies this to be the law, or whether he argues the law is wrong, but if any one doubts that this is the law, we refer him to the case of Vaughn vs Commissioners, of Forsyth, 117 N. C. Report on page 429, and we refer him also to any reputable disinterested lawyer. Then if this be the law, should our members of the Legislature be blamed and criticised for in-troducing and favoring an act allowing the Board of County Commissioners to issue bonds to provide the necessary county buildings, if the people should tremove the county seat to Genremove the county seat to Gas-tonia, without an election, no one will contend that an election would, or ought to be held, to provide for the county buildings in case it was necessary to erect them at the present county seat. In other words, these bonds can-not be issued unless the election carries for the removal, then the same means could, and ought to be used to erect them at Gastonia, as would be used for their

checkers on the removal question.

And he says that the bill for the bonds will be kept in the background. Is this a just charge in the light of the fact that the act for the issue of the bonds has already appeared in the Gastonia papers, and was published before any allegation of its concealment was made by Mr. Hoffman and both are public acts necessible to the opponents of removal, who have the privilege of giving them as ansien notoriety as they wished. And again he argues that the \$30,000 is entirely inadequate for providing for the expense of county buildings etc., in case the county seat is removed. We understand, and think it will not be disputed, that the cells and other removable property in the present jall are worth not less than \$400. This, with the \$5000 offered by Gastonia, and the pusposed \$50,000 aggregates \$50,000 synilable assets for the purpose, even if the commissioners should see fit to invest

we are informed that it has costly trimmings, marble floors, and every convenience and if the commissioners should see at to have one built as expensive as the Iredell court house this would leave a balance of \$14,500 for a site and jail, an amount we contend more than sufficient for this purpose. And in answer to the suggestion than angladdition and repairs could be made to the present court house at Dallas, we venture the opinion that it would be impracticable and unwise to undertake an addition to that court house, sufficient to supply even the temporary necessities, for it seems that in other counties in the State when court house facilities are needed they are honored by erecting a new building, but if such additions were practicable at 1-10 of the amount that it would cost to remove the county seat, which Mr. Hoffman says would be sufficient for such additions and repairs, and this 1-10 should be estimated at \$5000 and the present court house at Dallas should be valued at \$5000((and we believe we have put these figures too high (we would then have court house costing \$10,000 which he says would be a capital one for the county. So when he wishes to argue the supplying of the courthouse at Dallas he puts the cost at \$10,000., but to pro-vide courthouse, jail and site at Gastonia \$39,000 is not sufficient. Mr. Hoffman also calls attention to the fact that. "Sometime ago there was a meeting of the most prominent citizens of the county and the almost unanimous voice was that good roads were a crying necessity, and asking a bond issue to meet that necessity." And we wish to say here by way of parenthesis that Mr. Hoffman who is asking to be followed in this county seat contest, is the only man who kept this voice for good roads from being unanimous, for he raised his bitterly against it. He argues in this circular which we are commenting upon that good roads are more necessary than the removal of the county seat, and asks "why didn't these sharp manipulators devise a scheme and submit that question to the decision of mere majority of those yoting instead of requiring a majority of all qualified voters?" We do not understand any argument in this question for or against re-moval, but if Mr. Hoffman was desirous of learning the reasons for the provisions of the road act it might have occurred to him that this information could be obtained from the members of the Legislature from this county who introduced and had this foad bill passed and though he styles them "sharp manipulators" they will hardly deem it necessary to "devise a scheme" to misrepresent the true reasons for such provisions. But for the enlightenment of Mr. Hoffman on the matter, we asked Mr. W. T. Love for his reasons for the provisions of the road act, and he said Mr. O. F. Mason, who was, and we presume still is a strong advocate of the road act, in advising him on the question told him that while the courts had intimated that the bonds would be legal without the question bebeing built at Dallas. Then we ing submitted to a majority of the qualified voters, he did not consider it safe to attempt to is which he urged ought not to sue road bonds without submitssary county mildings in case the county seat ting such question to a majority of the qualified voters. Mr. Love says these may not be the exact words used by Mr. is removed, therefore the pro-vision for the bonds ought not to be in the act providing for an election on the removal ques-Mason, but this is substantially what he said, and the effect of his statements to Mr. Love was to advise against the act providing for the issue of road bonds unless the same were submitted to a majority of the qual-ified voters. And if Mr. Hoffman desires further information on desires further information on this question we suppose he can obtain such information from Mr. Mason, who is more accessible to him than to us. Then Mr. Hoffman argues what is styled in the circular "Former History of the Question" and contends that the question was submitted several years ago under the circumstances in every ways more

when the jail was burned a movement was started for the purpose of asking the Legislature to pass an act again allowing a vote on the question, and about 2800 citizens, which we suppose was more than two-thirds of all the voters in the county, petitioned the Legislature for an act allowing a vote on the question of removal, and asked that the result in such 'a bill or act be made to depend upon the majority of the votes cast but Mr. O. F. Mason of Dallas, who was the only member of the Legislature from this county and whose approval of any bill on the question was necessary before the Legislature would pass it, opposed any steps being taken asking for any legislation on the subject, and after he was overwhelmed with petitions asking for the bill, he finally and reductantly consented to introduce a bill requiring a majority of the qualified voters, and assumed the authority and prerogative, otherwise invested by law in the county commissioners, to insert in the act that not less than \$50,000 should be expended in the erection of buildings in case of realized that there was an enormous registration caused from the Amendment campaign, and asked Mr. Mason to at least allow them a new registration, but he refused even this, and so after carefully considering the matter, and feeling that the minium amount fixed in the bill to be expended for county buildings was extravagant, and realizing that it would be im-possible to carry this or any neasure where a majority of the qualified voters of the county ere required to vote in favor of it before it could be carried and such majority of the qualified voters was based upon the enormous registration caused from the Amendment campaign, they thought best to abandon such election. Now will any reasonable fair minded man say that Mr. Masou's will was responsive to all these peti-tioners. We asked for bread but got a stone, and because we did not undertake to hold the election in the face of such obstacles and objections, this is now attempted to be used against us in this campaign, and while Mr. Hoffman states in the campaign circular that at the election of 1897 the question was more favorable for removal, and argues that at this election of 1897 and the one ordered for 1901 there were more reasons for removing the county seat, we recall that there is no difference in the degree of his opposition. but this opposition was as vigor-ous and bitter at those times as it is now. If this statement of the circumstances attending the 1901 act should seem by anyone encalled for at this time, such statement was made necessary by the attempt to now use these things against us. Besides we fail to see any argument for his nothing: which he urged ought not to have been ordered or permitted

Votes cast were in lavor of re-

moval; but the bill being so framed that those not voting and

taking no part in the election were counted against removal,

it was defeated. Two years ago

But he argues that the court house at Dallas is sufficient, and cites the old Mecklenburg court house as an example. If Mr. Hoffman is not misinformed or mistaken as to the size of the old Mecklenburg court house, and we think he is, this seems to us we think he is, this seems to us a poor argument, that because Mecklenburg county did not provide a sufficient court house, we should not, for it seems that Mecklenburg's was not sufficient for it has erected a new building at a cost of double what we contend would be necessary to build in this county, but however that in this county, but however that may be, we know the county commissioners of Iredell county were indicted at the instance of Judge Shaw because of the in-sufficiency of the court house that the question was submitted several years ago under the circumstances in every way more favor able for removal, and the county was about out of debt, and the town of Gastonia had offered a large sum of money. And that Two years ago the Gastonians had the option of going before you for your decision, but the law then pus before your eyes a reminder of the expense so that it could not be soft talked out of your mind. The jail was then burned down, and of necessity must be rebuilt somewhere, and the county was not so much in debt as now. They failed to make the appeal to you." Let us see if Mr. Hoffman has given all of the material facts bearing on the question. In 1897, when the first election was held, a large number of petitioners asked the Legislature for an election on the question of removal, and these petitions asked that the result of such election depend upon a majority of the votes cast, but the Act required a majority of the qualified voters to carry the election for removal and notwithstanding Mr. Hoffman and others at Dallas fought the removal question as bitterly and vigorously as he and they for that county. and the result of this indictment is that Iredell for that county, and the result of this indictment is that Iredell has a new one about which we have already spoken, and only a few weeks since Judge Long had the commissioners of Caldwell indicted because the court house for that county was insufficient, and because the commissioners had failed to provide a new one, and before the adjournment of the term of court at which they were indicted, they met and passed a resolution for a new court house, and we are informed that both of these court house buildings were quite as good as the one at Dallas, and we know this county is more populous and wealthy and requires more court house facilities than Caldwell, and we think the public necessity requires and we are as able to provide as ample court house facilities as Iredell. Besides, we understand that one other terms of court will take up all evaluable space in the vaults in the Clerk's office at Dallas, and we understand also the Register's office is now insufficient for the lack of space in the vault, and it is a matter of common knowledge and observation that

by the Legislature.



Potash

OR Hames Street, Now York

during the trial of criminal actions in this county, and often in the trial of civil actions, the jury are forced to deliberate in arriving at their verdicts in barn-yards, old fields, or any other outdoor place they can find, which renders that secrecy and privacy which the law expects in such cases almost impossible, and any one who attends court can see that the seating capacity of our court house is entirely iuadequate, and notwithstanding removal. Those representing at the last term of our court these petitioners for the bill Judge Shaw announced that witnesses and parties must be present when called, whenever he would require those standing in the court house to be seated it would often necessitate some of these very witnesses and parties leaving the building. Again Mr. Hoffman endeavors "to throw a scare" into the ranks of the voters by saying in substance that if the "Gastonians" win the cry will be for up to date buildings, doubtless meaning by this to make the impression upon you that a much larger sum will be asked for and expended for county buildings in case the election carries for removal than the available assets for this purpose. The standing and character of the present Board of County Commissioners ought to make this intimation and suspicion of bad faith on their part of no effect, for the rankest advocate of removal could not expend the amount provided nor any greater amount without the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. Besides the \$30,000 of bonds provided for out of which the expenses are to come for this purpose is the on-ly amount for which the people can be taxed, and there could be no further bond issue unless authorized by another Legislature, and as the act provides for the completion of the buildings in case of removal by the first day of November, 1904, we don't think for these reasons this scare ought to work. But these sus-picions and intimations have called forth the following signed statement from the members of the Board of County Commissioners, which speaks for itself, and if this is not a complete answer to this allegation

> STATEMENT OF COUNTY COM-MISSIONERS.

of Mr. Hoffman, then the word

and pledge of these men is worth

To the People of Gaston County; In view of certain reports current in the county, by circular and otherwise, which seem to reflect upon the disposition of the present Board of County Commissioners of Gas-

ton county to guard wisely and econ mically the interests of the people whom they serve, in case it should become necessary to re-establish the county seat, we deem it but simple justice to ourselves and the public to make the following statement in regard to the matter: It is our purpose and intention, and we hereby pledge ourselves to the people of the county, to erect and complete suitable buildings; and complete suitable buildings; and to limit our expenditures strictly to the assets placed at our disposal at the time when the election shall be carried, to-wit; The thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) in funds authorized by the recent act of the Legislature, the \$5,000 donated by Gastonia, and the property now belonging to the county at

Dallas. J. R. CONNEL, JNO. D. B. MCLEAN, Signed J. O. HOLLAND. R. A. WHITE,

JNO. M. GARTON. And he points to Gastonia a an example of high taxes, and says 'these same leaders once before underesttimated the expensel of a public improvement. We refer to their Electric Lights and Long Creek water. We believe they had to issue a leavest second instillurate according to the same and the We believe they had to issue a large second installment of bonds. If the finance of Gastouia was in a deplorable condition, and Gastouia was a county instead of a town this might be considered an argument for him, but even if this is the case we fail to see any argument in citing Gastouia as an example, for his argument that more money will be spent for county buildings falls down for the reason that it cannot be done

(CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE.)

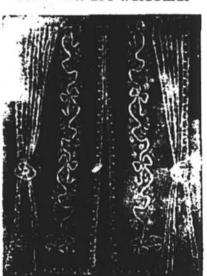
SPRING OPENING at THOMSON CO.

APRIL 2nd AND 3rd.

During these days all the new fads of the season will be shown. Our Millinery force has been for several weeks getting ready for this event.

We will expect everybody in this and surrounding country to come and inspect this grand display of Millinery and Dress Goods. Our whole force is just as busy as bees get-

ting everything in ship shape. While we only have but a veryifew minutes each day to arrange for the opening as customers are coming in from all; sides of the county which keeps us busy most offthe time, however we will be in trim shape in plenty of time, so don't fall to give us a call. All are welcome.



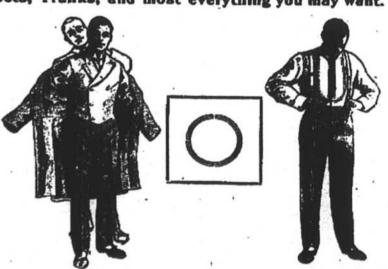
Our Curtain and Carpet department is now at its best. We have some swell things in this department. you are interested in Lace Curtains, Tapestry Curtains, Carpets, Mattings, Rugs, Linoleum, Shades, Poles, or fixtures of any kind we can supply your

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there is not a better selection in this part of the State. We can fit you in Sults or Pants. Just drop in and see, and mind you, this means at the price you want to pay.

Our big stores are ready as never before with all that is beautiful and artistic for the season fairly beaming from basement to roof with creations of the world's foremost fashion authorities. Millinery, Ready-to-wear Garments, Shoes, Gloves, Laces, Dry Goods, Clothing, Gent's Furnishings, Carpets, Trunks, and most everything you may want.



Stroll through our big stores at your leisure and enjoy the pleasant surprises that will greet you from every counter.

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Is careful of every detail, and when he chooses his footwear he knows just what he wants and he al-so knows that he can get it at our store. ; ; ; Robinson Bros.

ALL APRIL Magazines at the Gastonia Book Store on the

SCHOOL BOOKS and school sup-plies at the Gastonia Book Store on the corner.

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To the Nice Families of Gastonia and Community. We wish to announce that THE RUREKA PRATHER WASHING CO. is now located in Gastonia. This enterprising firm is equipped with the best and latest improved machinery for cleaning and disinfecting feather beds, pillows and bolsters. They also make a specialty of the Celebrated Folding Peather Mattress which has

ing Peather Mattress which has been conceded to give the best general satisfaction for wearing qualities and the most comforta-ble bed invented in modern times. Their prices are very times. Their prices are very reasonable, 5c per pound for washing feathers or one seventh feather pay, and for making mattress including best new ticking five dollars. They also pay highest market prices for old and new feathers. Respectfully soliciting the patronage of the general public. Guarantee satisfaction.

The Eureka Peather Washing Co., Gastonia, N. C.