

## NOW IS THE TIME, GASTONIA THE PLACE!!

### Consider the Overwhelming Reasons for Removal and Cast your Vote for the Progress of Gaston County—Two Court Houses and Two Jails Have Already been Built at Dallas—Move the County Seat and Move it Now.

An election of great importance to every citizen of the county is at hand. Shall the county seat of the 30,000 people of Gaston remain in a town of 600 people, removed from the center of trade, travel, and population, and with an inadequate court house, or shall it be moved to the county's center of trade, travel, and population, a town of 6,000 people, and be provided with suitable modern buildings?

This question is with us again and presses upon us for a wise answer. Why not settle it wisely and settle it now? Move the county seat to Gastonia, and you settle the question wisely and right. Settle a question right and it will stay settled.

What of removal? Let's pack the facts together and give them our candid consideration.

#### I.—NOW IS THE TIME.

1. A new court house is a pressing necessity. The county records have already well filled the two fire proof vaults, and courts are being held at the rate of four a year. There are no rooms for the petit jurors. The seating capacity of 128 in the auditorium is not sufficient for the sittings and witnesses. At the last September term of court there were on the criminal docket 137 cases. Allow one witness for each side and there are 274 witnesses. How can 274 witnesses be accommodated with only 128 seats? Need you be reminded that only a few years ago a sheriff was fined \$1 each for forty men that he allowed to stand in the aisles?

2. The county commissioners are continually exposed to indictment for not providing better court house facilities. Statesville, in a county of 30,000 population, had a larger court house than Gaston has with her 30,000. Yet the commissioners of Iredell were indicted by the grand jury

by direction of the judge and required to build a larger. At Lenoir, only a few weeks ago, Judge Long had the county commissioners of Caldwell indicted for similar cause.

3. Where shall it be built? A new court house for Gaston county must soon be built somewhere. The election to be held on the 22nd of April allows the voters to say where. If their decision is against removal to Gastonia, the county commissioners have the power to tax the people to build a new court house at Dallas.

#### II.—GASTONIA IS THE PLACE.

Such being the conditions, the county seat should be moved to Gastonia, for—

1. This would insure the prompt erection of suitable modern buildings.

2. The public property would here be under better protection against fire. In the past 30 years the county has had two court houses and two jails at Dallas. Why not look forward to the next 30 years with better foresight?

3. The county seat could be more easily reached both by railroad and public road.

4. Time and money would be saved to the public, for in Gastonia the county seat would be most convenient to the greatest number. Cut Gaston county from the map. Fold the county east and west, and then north and south. The intersection of the folds places the geographical center one mile east of the middle point between Dallas and Gastonia. North of the east-and-west line are Cherryville, Dallas and River Bend townships with a (1900 census population) of 11,005. South of this line are Crowder's Mountain, Gastonia, and South Point townships with a total population of 16,898. Eliminate portions of Cherryville and River Bend from which the distance by public

road would remain about the same, and allow for the increase of population since 1900 at the Lora, Arlington, and other new mills on this side, and it will be seen that where the court house is moved further from 10 people, it is moved nearer to 19.

5. Money will be saved to the county. In the September term, 1902, the criminal docket was made up of cases from the townships as follows:

Dallas	5
Cherryville	12
River Bend	13
Gastonia	58
South Point	22
Crowder's Mountain	21
Total	137

Allowing three state's witnesses to each case, it will be seen that while the court house in Gastonia would be further from 118 witnesses, it would be nearer to 303. Count four courts in a year and this represents an annual saving of about 3,000 miles for the witnesses and a great saving to the county in mileage expenses.

6. The county is able. The tax valuation of property in Gaston is over \$6,000,000, and there are 4,000 polls. The law authorizing the issue of \$30,000 worth of 30 year court house bonds says the rate of taxation for the bonds shall not exceed 3 cents on the \$100 and 9 cents on the poll. If the property valuation should not increase another dollar and not another poll be added, the rate named would raise enough money in 16 years to pay off bonds and interest in full at maturity. And we would have the use of the buildings while paying for them.

7. The funds are sufficient. The \$30,000, with the property at Dallas and \$5,000 offered by Gastonia, are abundantly sufficient to re-establish the county seat. The Gastonia Presbyterian church complete cost \$18,000, Methodist church \$20,000 Central Graded School, heated and furnished, including all the

grounds, cost less than \$13,000. Wilkes county built a new court house for \$17,300. At Statesville the new court house, with steel vaults, heat, light, water, and furnishings of the best throughout, one of the finest in the South, cost \$25,875. If built in Gastonia for this sum, there would still have remained \$4,325 out of the \$30,000, and also the property at Dallas, for building the jail.

8. Our conservative county commissioners say: "We pledge ourselves to the people of the county to erect and complete suitable buildings, and to limit our expenditures strictly to the assets placed at our disposal at the time the election shall be carried."

9. If the county seat had been moved six years ago, the county would have had the benefit of Gastonia's gift of \$15,000, would have had new buildings, and all practically paid for, by this time.

10. Removal now would settle and settle wisely and right a question that has long vexed the minds of our people. Why not settle it on the 22nd of April for the best interests of all involved, settle it on the side of progress, settle it on the side of the greatest good to the greatest number, and leave our minds free to take up the work of good roads and other public improvements? There is not a solitary reason why the county seat should not come to Gastonia. Every reason is in favor of removal. Let us vote accordingly, take a needed step forward, and leave one more public question behind us.

W. F. MARSHALL,  
For Advocates of Removal,  
Gastonia, April 8, 1903.

"Gastonia is the place for the court house," said one of the best farmers of the county the other day. "Let's settle it; let's be done with it and take up something else."

### TWO COURT HOUSES AND TWO JAILS

Have Already Been Built in Dallas—The People Should Look to Their Financial Interest and Vote for Removal.

From The Gastonia Gazette, April 7.

To the voters of Gaston County: Look to your financial interest when voting on the court house question. Circulars that have been sent around against removal are not in the interest of the large majority of the citizens of Gaston county.

Every voter knows, or ought to know, that the county has built two court houses and two jails in Dallas already. A new court house is now a pressing necessity and must soon be built somewhere. Where is there a voter who would put up for himself any sort of valuable building away off from water works, if he had them all around his other buildings?

Gastonia has the best of water works. You need not have any fear of your court house or jail burning up again while you or your great-grandchildren live, if you will build them in Gastonia. Think of that, voters, before you cast your ballot against removal. Gastonia has the water and the county would be perfectly welcome to it in case of fire at the court house or jail.

Voters, I say look to your financial interest. The opponents of removal are not looking to your interests but to their own. Dallas has failed to grow in population. It is not Gastonia's fault. Now, voters, don't pay any attention to any circular or letter that may be sent you by the opponents of removal; but broaden your views and look to the interest of yourself and the entire county.

I hope you may never have to build another court house after the one the county now needs so much, but you may have to build another if you vote to build it where there are no water-works.

Now, voters, think of what it costs the county to hold court in a court house like the one we now have. While the witnesses often can't find seats or standing room and have to stay out of doors and be called when wanted. This delays the court. Again, there are times when a jurymen must necessarily be excused from the court room. With present facilities he must be absent something like 15 or 30 minutes. Court has to stop until he gets back. Now, it costs about \$10 an hour to run the court, and if a jurymen loses 30 minutes or a witness delays the court, the costs to the county count up mighty fast. Furthermore, it takes the jury about five minutes to get out of the court-room and about 20 minutes more to find a place to stand around in until a verdict is agreed upon.

Just calculate now how much better it would be, if you had a court house with water, light, heat, jury rooms, and water closets and all the conveniences of an up-to-date building, as a new court house in Gastonia will be.

If you have read Mr. Marshall's answer to Mr. Hoffman you can see there who is paying the taxes and where the money is being spent. There are other parts of the county that want some of the good things they are paying for. Gastonia does not want it all, but is willing for other towns to get and have good roads to them. Voters, look to your own and the county's best interests; and you will go out on the 22nd of this month and vote for removal.

Gastonia R. P. D. No. 1, April 4, 1903.

#### BUILD THE NEW COURT HOUSE AT GASTONIA.

She is Conveniently Located for All the People and Can Give Better Protection to the Public Property.

From The Gastonia Gazette, April 7.

As the reasons for removal of the county-seat are rolling in please give me space for a few of the many important ones. It's no trouble to find plenty of good reasons. Taxes or center of population, I need not discuss. Both are settled in favor of removal to Gastonia.

But there are three other questions we may consider:

1. Does Gaston need a new court house? Answer: emphatically, Yes.

2. Is the county going to build a new court house? My answer is Yes.

3. Where is the proper place to build it? The answer is, Gastonia.

Now friends of Gaston county stop and consider a little and see whether you will not agree with me. Gastonia is prepared to take care of the people's property. We have here a good system of water-works, and can furnish protection against fire. Does Dallas do it? No.

We have five regular policemen—three in the day and two at night. Those who seek to do mischief will be looked after both by day and by night. Does Dallas furnish this? No.

My good people of Gaston, Dallas furnishes very little protection of any kind. If you will only think a little for yourself, I can remind you of some things that have happened there in the last few years that would not happen in Gastonia; such as tying somebody's calf in the grand jury room and taking a man's milch cow up on top of the front steps, where she was left for the owner to get her down the best he could. The man paid 50 cents to get his cow down, and the county, I suppose had to pay for the cleaning up.

To build a \$30,000 court house out of the people's money and leave it unprotected in a town like that would be very unwise, it seems to me. And suppose this new court house should by some means catch a-fire, what

could the town of Dallas do? I tell you, the people of Gaston would soon have the privilege of seeing their \$30,000 in ashes, and of going down in their pockets to put up a new court house.

I say, let's build it at Gastonia. She furnishes protection and it does not cost the county a cent.

Gastonia is a center of trade, and the people are going to come to Gastonia to do their trading, court house or no court house. I saw four two-horse wagons loaded with farmers come into town the other day in one crowd, and they came from 6 or 7 miles beyond Dallas. You can look on our streets almost any day and see farmers from north of Dallas. They come here to sell their produce and buy what they need. And they will come here to attend court and do their trading, and be glad of the chance to do both with one trip instead of two.

Now my friends of Gaston county who are standing back saying, Wait till we have to build a new court house, then we will favor Gastonia; you had better wake up. You have heard enough of this question to know what it means. It means that Gaston is going to keep pace with her progressive sister counties. What is the use of continually holding elections on this question? Let's settle it now by voting for removal.

Now, fellow-voters of Gaston, the first and second questions above answer themselves, but it is left for you and me to answer the third at the polls on the 22nd of April. Vote for removal of the county seat to Gastonia and you will always be proud of it.

EX-RÉSIDENT OF DALLAS,  
Gastonia, N. C., April 6, 1903.

The people of Gaston county allowed scare-crow makers to beat them out of \$15,000 six years ago. Are they going to listen to these same people again? Well, hardly!

#### WHAT DO THE COMMISSIONERS SAY?

County Commissioners Pledge Themselves to Spend no More than Actual Funds Provided.

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 Gaston county to guard wisely and economically 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 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.

JNO. D. B. MCLAN,  
J. Q. HOLLAND,  
R. A. WHITE,  
JNO. M. GASTON,  
J. R. COXWELL.

#### WHO SAID \$15,000 FOR A SITE?

The County has Plenty of Options on Fine Sites in Gastonia at Prices from \$1,300 to \$4,000.

Here are some options which citizens of Gastonia have offered time? We will suppose that he thinks to-morrow, next week, next year—the time that never comes. Mr. Hoffman seems willing to wait. In this he reminds us of the Irishman, who was sentenced to be hanged. The judge said, "Now Pat, you can choose the kind of a tree you are to be hanged on; what kind shall it be?" "Will, thin, yer honer, if yer honer please, let it be a gooseberry bush." "But," said the judge, "a gooseberry bush is too small." "Never mind that," says Pat; "I am willin' to wait till it grows!"

T. L. Craig—Stable lot, corner of Long and Marietta streets, 150x150, \$4,000.

Dr. C. E. Adams—Orchard lot on Main Street west of B. T. Morris's residence, 80x275, for \$1,500.

Dr. C. E. Adams—Corner lot east of W. H. Lewis's residence on Main Street, 180x180, for \$2,000.

Deal & Jenkins—Corner of Long and Marietta Streets, in front of Craig & Wilson's stables, 100x200, for \$1,300.

Jno. F. Love—Vacant lot on Airline Street (old Presbyterian church property) 150x200, for \$3,000.

The signed papers for every one may be seen at THE GAZETTE office. Thus the big scare crow of " \$15,000 for a new court house site" is disposed of.

Nobody has yet stumbled across any reasons why the county seat should not be moved to Gastonia.

#### Pat and the Gooseberry Bush.

Geo. W. Wilson, Esq., in The Gastonia Gazette, March 21.

"But," says Mr. Hoffman, "the time is inopportune; it suits the town people, but it don't suit the country people." When does Mr. Hoffman think an opportune time? We will suppose that he thinks to-morrow, next week, next year—the time that never comes. Mr. Hoffman seems willing to wait. In this he reminds us of the Irishman, who was sentenced to be hanged. The judge said, "Now Pat, you can choose the kind of a tree you are to be hanged on; what kind shall it be?" "Will, thin, yer honer, if yer honer please, let it be a gooseberry bush." "But," said the judge, "a gooseberry bush is too small." "Never mind that," says Pat; "I am willin' to wait till it grows!"

#### Gastonia's Big Jury Room.

Hugh Long and J. B. Page, in Gastonia Gazette, March 21.

It is a matter of common knowledge and observation that 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 barnyards, old fields, or any other out-door place they can find, which renders that secrecy and privacy which the law expects in such cases almost impossible.

#### TAX SCARE-CROW LAID OUT.

At the Low Rate Fixed by Law, the Bonds Could be Paid Off in 16 years.

G. W. Capps, in Gastonia Gazette, April 3rd. The taxable property of the county is now \$6,000,000. A tax of 3 cents on the \$100 would give us \$1,800 a year. Add to this, nine cents on each of 4,000 polls which is \$360, and we have \$2,160. The interest on the bonds at 4 per cent (we think they can be floated for less) is \$1200, so we have a sinking fund of \$960.

This, compounded annually at 6 per cent, would in sixteen years, amount to \$24,705.96 and it would not be necessary to collect any more taxes for this purpose as the interest on this amount would pay interest on bonds and give us, at the end of thirty years when bonds mature, the sum of \$30,028.44 which will pay off the bonds. Or we could loan the sinking fund back to the county fund at 4 per cent, thus reducing the amount for which we are now paying Mr. Hoffman and others 6 per cent.

#### An Old Hen Could Pay the Tax.

Heater, in Gastonia Gazette, April 3rd.

Well, we hear it whispered now and again that something is going to be done in Gaston county, that there is one element that says that they are going to move the court house to Gastonia and another set that says no, that he can't stand the taxes that will be added on him to pay, when the fact of the matter is that lots of them that are kicking against the tax part, don't return over \$200.00 worth of property and with that and his poll he would only have to pay 15 cents more per year. One dozen eggs would bring that and they from common hens.

#### Oh, that Damage Suga-bee!

Geo. W. Wilson, Esq., in Gastonia Gazette.

But "Good lawyers express opinions on both sides of the question." The opinions of good lawyers written over their names look better than a sly intimation. The public may then know the quality of the opinion and of the lawyer.

#### WHO SAID \$7 POLL TAX?

Another Scare-Crow Shattered by Hard Facts!

The special act for issuing \$30,000 in court house bonds provides in plain words (Section 2) that the tax for this purpose shall not exceed 3 cents on the \$100 and 9 cents on the poll.

Now listen! The poll tax period of a man's life, from 21 to 50 years of age, is just 29 years. If he were to pay the 9 cents poll every year for the whole 29 years, his total poll tax at the end would amount to only \$2.61. That nails another scare-crow.

Isn't it time to stop listening to people who are trying to deceive you in their own interest?

#### Gastonia County all Right.

Geo. W. Wilson, Esq., in Gastonia Gazette.

Our county finances are all right, or a practical conservative business man like Mr. Hoffman would not be lending the county money at 6%. No one knows better than he, that he will get it back dollar for dollar, with interest, as soon as, if not sooner, than he wants it.

#### Just a Little Question.

Heater, in The Gastonia Gazette, April 3.

Some of the people who oppose removal say that \$30,000 will not put up such a court house as our great county demands. If that be so, then how do they expect one that will seat only 128 people outside the bar and jury box, and not worth over \$3,000 dollars, to answer the purpose?

#### As to the Moral View.

Gastonia News, April 7.

There is a greater moral wrong in depriving the people of the county of the convenience of a centrally located county seat than there is in satisfying the convenience of a few individuals who happen to be grouped around an out-of-the-way court house.

Nobody, absolutely nobody, up to the present time has given one solitary reason why the court house should not be moved to Gastonia. There is no such reason. All reason and every reason is in favor of removal.

#### MILLINERY.

LATEST & CREATIONS.

Our millinery department in charge of Miss Parks is surpassing itself this season in style, beauty, artistic products, and in business done. It has delighted others, it will delight you. Come to see us.

#### DRESS GOODS.

These we have in the newest weaves—Voiles, Mohair, and Crepe effects.

#### GREENADINES.

Don't fail to see our line. Linen Greenadine—black, white, and colors, at 50c. Silk Greenadine—black, white, and black and white, \$1.00 to \$1.50.

#### SILKS.

36-inch Taftetas from 75c. to \$1.50 per yard. Wash silks, black, white, and colors 39c. to 75c.

#### HOSIERY.

Complete line, Ladies' and Misses' lace strips, 25c. to \$1 per pair.

#### NOVELTIES.

Our line of Belts, Belt Pins, Shirt-waist Sets, Wrist Bags, Brooches, Combs, etc., cannot be surpassed.

#### LACES, APPLIQUES, ETC.

Our line surpasses any ever shown on this market. Grapes, designs very popular. We have just received a lot of wash Appliques. They are beauties and trim wash fabrics to perfection.

#### J. F. Yeager.

LADIES' FURNISHINGS

#### A. D. CLARK,

GROCER.

This is the place to get your groceries cheap. Let us quote you some prices:

Best Patent Capitol Flour	\$2.50 per sack.
1/2 Patent Flour at	\$2.10 per sack.
Pure Leaf Lard at	12 1/2c per lb.
Granulated Sugar, 10 lbs for	\$1.00.
Rounded Coffee	10c per lb.
3-lb. cans Tomatoes	10c
Corn	8c per bu.

Come and see my line before placing your order. Respectfully,

A. D. Clark.

#### THE SPRING SEASON.

Is nearly here. You need new shoes for Easter. We have the best stock, the largest variety and the newest ideas in Easter Foot-wear for Men, Women and Children.



Some of our styles are more in vogue than they have been for some time. You are invited to call in and see them.

#### Robinson Bros.,

Shoes, Hats and Men's Furnishings