

**The Gastonia Gazette.**

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TUESDAY, DEC. 18, 1906.

**CHRISTMAS DAY OFF.**

The Gazette will break away from an old custom this year and knock off with the rest of the business people Christmas day. It will join the large majority of country newspapers which suspend publication for one day in order that the members of the "force" may be like other folks and take a little rest. This is to serve notice on the paper's subscribers and advertisers that there will be no issue of The Gazette of date Tuesday, December 25th. Christmas comes but once a year and we are unable to see why the people who make newspapers should be expected to peg away as they do every day in the year—leaving Sundays out of the count—when everybody else is having a good time.

With a postoffice building and free delivery of mail in sight, Gastonia stands greatly in need of two more things—cement sidewalks and paving or macadam along the main thoroughfare in the business section. Why not pull for all four at the same time?

That is gratifying news which Mr. Kope Elias brings back from Princeton, N. J., to the effect that former President Grover Cleveland is not so ill as stated in recent press dispatches. He is enjoying good health, says Mr. Elias, and bids fair to outlive many men years younger than he is. The Southern friends of the "Sage of Princeton"—and they are by no means

few—are rejoiced at this information.

Cumberland county physicians are going to appeal to the Legislature, at its approaching term, to repeal that section of their prohibition law which permits licensed drug stores to sell booze on the prescription of a physician. They claim that they are imposed on by scheming booze artists who put up all sorts of fancy tales in order to obtain a "scrip." They will also notify the druggists that they need not renew their licenses with a view to selling the ardent on physicians' prescriptions, as the latter won't be forthcoming. In the light of the statement that the "blind tiger" article in that section is vilely mean, it seems that the "Morally Stunted" of Cumberland are up against a stiff proposition.

There seems to be hardly the shadow of a doubt that Gastonia will have free delivery of mail after the close of the present fiscal year in April next. The only requirement for the establishment of free delivery of mail in a town is that the office receipts amount to \$10,000 annually. In the year ending April, 1906, the receipts fell short of this figure less than \$400. The receipts for the current year so far have practically covered this deficit, with the best quarter of the four yet to come. It seems hardly possible that the year's total can fall below the \$10,000 mark and if it doesn't—well, then Gastonia gets free delivery of mail. With the town's steady increase in manufacturing plants and other business interests there is no fear that the receipts will ever again fall below the required mark.

Without a doubt the best issue ever gotten out by a North Carolina newspaper was the Christmas edition of The Charlotte

Observer which appeared Sunday. It consisted of fifty-six pages in five sections and would have done credit to a city many times larger than Charlotte. It was brimful of good things from the first page to the last, not the least pleasing feature being the illustrations. The major portion of the articles appearing in this issue was the product of Tar Heel pens and brains, a point worthy of note in view of the fact that this paper is doing a wonderful service for the State and the South in discovering and bringing before the reading public writers of ability who would otherwise doubtless remain in obscurity.

That was indeed a regrettable accident which caused the destruction by fire of three thousand or more copies of the supplements after the plates from which they were printed had been destroyed, depriving as it did that many readers from feasting on the good things therein contained. No person who has had any part or parcel, however small, in the making of a paper such as the The Observer can fail to read with a large degree of interest the article under the head "The Making of a Modern Newspaper." The Observer's enterprise in giving the public such a rare and delicious treat as this Christmas edition is worthy of great commendation.

The case against W. T. Rigby, a wealthy young Durhamite, for contempt of court in stuffing ballot boxes was Saturday continued by Judge Parnell until Jan. 1.

John C. Brain, commander of several Confederate vessels during the civil war and a close personal friend of President Jefferson Davis, died last week at Tampa, Fla.

A big rally was held by the Mormons at Columbia, S. C., Sunday. They claim to have 1,400 members in the Palmetto State. George Albert Smith, a son of Apostle Joseph Smith, was one of the speakers.

**VERDICT FOR PLAINTIFFS.**

Judge Boyd Signs Judgments Aggregating \$75,311.15 in Favor of Wells Company Against Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company and Avon Mills—Judge Pritchard Grants Temporary Injunction—A Famous Case.

Judgments were signed in Federal Court at Charlotte Friday afternoon by Judge James E. Boyd in favor of the W. L. Wells Company, of Vicksburg, Miss., against the Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company and the Avon Mills, awarding the plaintiffs \$75,311.15. Much interest attaches to this case by reason of the fact that it has been hard fought from the time it was first instituted several years ago.

Most of the facts regarding this case are matters of common knowledge to the reading public but the following resume, from The Charlotte Evening Chronicle of Saturday, will prove not uninteresting:

The cases have been in the courts for the past several years and much interest has been manifested in them owing to the large amounts involved. The defendant cotton mills bought cotton from W. L. Wells Company, of Vicksburg, Miss., amounting to, including interest to date, \$85,000. Mr. John F. Love, for the Gastonia Mills, claimed that Mr. Wells agreed to take two blocks of stock in the Lory Mills, amounting to \$40,000 and \$10,000 respectively. The Wells company denied this and instituted suit to recover the amount due for the cotton. Mr. W. L. Wells, president of the company, did not deny the charge as an individual.

A verdict was awarded the plaintiff in the District Court held in Charlotte in June, 1902, and the defendants appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals at Richmond, where it was argued four times. It finally went to the United States Supreme Court and was sent back to the Court of Appeals, which upheld the first decision of Judge Boyd, except as to one item involving the \$10,000 item.

The case was then returned to the District Court here and the plaintiff agreed to accept the judgment as upheld by the Court of Appeals. The plaintiff company was represented by Mr. C. W. Tillett, of Charlotte, and Mr. Murray E. Smith, of Vicksburg; Messrs. Burwell & Canler, of Charlotte, and Mr.

O. F. Mason, of Dallas, represented the defendants."

A new turn was given the case Saturday night when Judge Jeter C. Pritchard, of the Circuit Court telegraphed Clerk H. C. Cowles, of the Federal court for the Western District of North Carolina, stating that a temporary injunction had been granted restraining the issue of an execution in favor of the Wells Company. In view of this injunction no execution will issue until it is so ordered by the Circuit Court.

No additional information could be had yesterday at the local offices of the defendant companies. It is known, however, that they will resist the execution of these judgments but what further steps will be taken in the matter is not known.

**Poultry Men to Meet.**

A meeting of the Gaston Poultry Association will be held in the city hall Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock for the purpose of arranging a premium list for the first annual show to be given by this organization, Jan. 22-25. All members are urged to be present as are also any non-members who desire to join. The membership now numbers over forty, though the association has been organized but a short time. A hundred or more special prizes have already been secured and it is the intention of the officers to increase this number considerably before the date for the show. All persons having chickens which they desire to enter for prizes are requested to notify Secretary J. Lawrence Beal at once. This association is doing much to encourage the breeding of fancy fowls in the county. It is its purpose to give annually a chicken show, which promises to create an ever-increasing interest in chicken raising in Gaston.

Both houses of Congress will adjourn Thursday for the Christmas holidays to reconvene on Jan. 3rd. In the House yesterday was devoted to the consideration of bills under an order providing for the suspension of the rule and the remainder of the week will be devoted to legislation pertaining to the District of Columbia. The urgent deficiency appropriation bill, which passed the House Saturday, is expected to receive the sanction of the Senate before adjournment for the holidays.

**XMAS GIFTS THAT Appeal to Men**

The old scheme of giving "him" some trifling nothing on Xmas is a thing of the remote past. Men like to get things worth while—Something useful rather than ornamental. Could you think of a gift more acceptable than such things as "he" wears—such things as we sell? Just glance at the good suggestions we make herein—only a few things "he'd" want:—

**Swell Toggery For Men's Xmas Gifts**

"He" would like—most men do—pretty Neckwear, Shirts, Gloves, Fancy Vests, Hosiery, Underwear, Suspenders, Handkerchiefs or a "Schloss Made" quality Suit, Overcoat, Raincoat, etc. A visit to this store will give you many ideas in buying a Xmas gift for "Him."

**Swan - Slater Company Head-to-Foot Outfitters for Men and Boys**

**A BUCKET OF CANDY FREE**

During the holidays, as long as they last, we are going to give to each and every customer who purchases as much as 25 cents worth at our store a one-half pound pail of fine French Mixed Candy absolutely free of charge. It is put up in a handsome and appropriately lithographed pail. No matter what the amount of the purchase (provided it is as much as 25 cents) only one bucket goes to a customer. If you need anything in our line

**Now is the Time to Buy**

Don't forget the time—Begins tomorrow morning—Nor the place—

**LONG BROS. Tinware, Stoves and Ranges GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA**

**A HANDSOME \$40 BOOKCASE ABSOLUTELY FREE**

No Lottery No Drawing No Guessing **THE HOLIDAY SEASON'S BIGGEST OFFERING** A Christmas Present FREE

Here is our unparalleled proposition--you can't afford not to read and heed: To each and every customer who pays cash for his purchase we are giving one coupon for every dollar paid. One of these coupons will call for a

**HANDSOME FORTY-DOLLAR COMBINATION BOOKCASE AND WRITING DESK**

There is absolutely no lottery feature connected with this proposition--no drawing, no guessing. The number of coupons is limited and consequently this offer will continue for a limited space of time. When your purchase is made you select your own numbers. Anybody can participate. If you have already bought goods from us in the month of December and will pay for same before Christmas Day you are entitled to coupons. It's the proposition of the year. Let us explain it to you. . . . .

**Remember the Place**

**THE WILLIAMS FURNITURE COMPANY**

Gastonia, N. C. Open Until 10 O'clock Every Night Craig and Wilson and Ragan Buildings