

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

SINGLE COPY 8 CENTS.

Devoted to the Protection of Home and the Interests of the County.

\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

VOL. XXXII.

GASTONIA, N. C. FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1911.

NO. 2.

OVER GASTON COUNTY.

BELMONT BUDGET.

Mr. John Armstrong Visits Old Home Town After Long Absence—High School Re-Opens With Largest Enrollment in History—Personal and News Items.

Correspondence of The Gazette.
BELMONT, Jan. 5.—Mr. John Armstrong, an old Gaston county man who went west some fifteen years ago, locating near Memphis, Tenn., is in this section, renewing old friendships and acquaintances. Marvelous changes, he says, greet him on every hand, the evidences of marked material prosperity and advance. Mr. Armstrong's western plantation is in the fertile and far-famed agricultural valley of the Mississippi.

Messrs. Rob and Will Hall, of this vicinity, together with Messrs. Jackson and Patrick, of the New Hope section, left a day or two ago to resume their studies at the Westminster School, Rutherfordton. Every incoming train this week brings students returning from their various homes to take up the spring term of work at the two colleges located here, St. Mary's for boys and Sacred Heart Convent for girls. Nearly every State along the Atlantic seaboard from Maine to Florida and Louisiana is represented at these two institutions.

The following young ladies left a day or two ago to enter the State Normal at Greensboro: Misses Elizabeth Hall, Edith Lineberger, Faye Davenport, Bane Henderson and Annie Fite. In addition to these, Misses Melva Gullick and Edna Rankin have returned to Charlotte to resume their work at the Presbyterian College.

A paper is being circulated and freely signed among the citizens of our town, petitioning that a bridge be constructed across the Catawba river at Sloan's Ferry. The road leading to the bridge at Rozelle's is at times almost impassable both to automobiles and other vehicles.

The Belmont public school opened for work on Monday, January 2, with the largest enrollment in the history of the school—\$90, which we think a very creditable number for a town of only 1,300 inhabitants. The friends and patrons of the school will be pleased to learn that from County Superintendent Hall's report, the Belmont school showed a larger enrollment than any school in the county with the exception of the Gastonia city schools.

Miss Vivian Hand who has been visiting her aunt, Mrs. Albert Hand, has returned to her home in Columbia.

Firms Consolidate.

A business deal has just been consummated by the terms of which the Armstrong Furniture Company and the Rankin Furniture Company are consolidated and will continue business as the Rankin-Armstrong Furniture Company. Mr. E. J. Rankin several days ago purchased the interest in the Rankin Furniture Company of Mr. E. Price Rankin and the latter retires from the firm. Mr. E. J. Rankin will be manager of the new firm, Mr. R. A. Froneberger book-keeper and Messrs. R. A. Rankin and Hoyle Armstrong salesmen. For the present the firm will retain for use the store rooms occupied by both.

An Approaching Wedding.

The many friends of Mr. John Luther Carson and Miss Minnie Howe will be interested in the announcement that they are to be married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Howe, on West Arline avenue, next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. The wedding will be a quiet home affair and the ceremony will be witnessed only by a small company of close relatives and friends. The groom is a prominent young farmer living just west of town on route one and is substitute carrier on rural route No. 4. The bride-to-be is a popular young lady of West Gastonia and both have many friends whose best wishes will follow them through their married life.

The board of county school commissioners met here Monday and appointed the school funds for the coming year. The list is crowded out of today's issue but will appear Tuesday.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS.

First Day's Session One of Formalities—W. C. Dowd Chosen Speaker of the House—Solar Plexus for Near Beer—Governor's Message Read.

The General Assembly of North Carolina convened in biennial session at Raleigh Wednesday and effected organization. The Democratic nominees for offices who were named at a caucus held Tuesday night were duly elected and installed. Senator H. N. Pharr, of Mecklenburg, is president pro tem of the Senate and Mr. W. C. Dowd, of Charlotte, editor of The News, is speaker of the House. Other officers are as follows: House—G. Scott Poole, Cumberland, reading clerk; N. D. Kinsland, Haywood, engrossing clerk; G. G. Kilpatrick, Lenoir, sergeant-at-arms; D. H. James, Halifax, assistant sergeant-at-arms; Senate—W. Otis Self, Jackson, principal clerk; Mark Squires, Caldwell, reading clerk; R. M. Staley, Wilkes, sergeant-at-arms; W. G. Hall, Cumberland, assistant sergeant-at-arms; W. E. Hoeks, Wayne, engrossing clerk.

Thursday, the second day's proceedings are thus epitomized in the Raleigh correspondence of The Charlotte Observer of this morning:

Reading of the biennial message of Governor Kitchin in the Senate and House and the passage by the House of a bill by Ray, of Macon, prohibiting the sale of near-beer, malt and beer, and of any drink that contains alcohol whatever were the features of the General Assembly today.

The bill knocking out near-beer saloons was introduced early and later called up and by general consent put on its final passage. There were quite a number of "noes" on the final vote, but the bill was clearly passed, receiving a big majority support. It was ordered sent to the Senate without engrossment.

The Governor's message was listened to with closest attention in both houses and evidently created quite a favorable impression.

In the House, Ewart, of Henderson offered resolutions asking North Carolina Congressmen to support the parcels post bill and endorsing New Orleans as the place for holding the Panama celebration. Also a resolution adopting the Federal constitutional amendment for income tax.

Officers of both Houses are urging members to introduce their local bills early in the session so State-wide legislation may have free course during the last weeks of the session.

—Miss Violet Rankin returned yesterday to Charlotte to resume her studies at Elizabeth College.

Tailor Shop Moved.

Mr. R. T. Padgett, representing the International and Royal Tailoring companies, has moved his tailor shop from the rooms over the Elite Grocery to the building next door to the Citizens National Bank building just vacated by Dr. D. E. McConnell.

Merida Lyda, who killed his father in Henderson county recently, was sentenced to the State prison for 12 years and has begun serving his term.

The Nautical Idiom.

In "Glimpses of East Africa" Mrs. Ethel Younghusband tells an amusing story of a venerable Parsee who was on board a big liner going to England. Some one wishing to make himself agreeable went up to him and said, "I hope, sir, you are a good sailor." "Sailor, indeed!" said the Parsee. "Why, I am a first class passenger!"

A Rod in Pickle.

Mrs. Goodsole—Why, Johnny, are you just going home now? Your mother's been looking for you all afternoon. Johnny—Yes'm, I know. Mrs. Goodsole—Just think how worried she must be! Johnny—Oh, she's near the end of her worrying. I'm just beginning mine.

Proof.

"How do you know she's older than you are?" "Why, she admitted it herself. She said 'You and I are just the same age, dearie.'"—Cleveland Leader.

Among men some have virtues concealed by wealth and some their vices by poverty.—Thegnis.

BRIDGE AT SLOAN'S FERRY.

Movement on Foot to Secure Co-operation Between Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties to Span Catawba With Iron Bridge—Petitions Looking to this End Now in Circulation.

Mr. J. M. Sloan and Mr. J. R. Gaston, both of the Sloan's Ferry section on the Catawba, have been in Gastonia this week circulating a petition asking the board of county commissioners of Gaston to co-operate with the board of county commissioners of Mecklenburg in the construction of a bridge over the Catawba at Sloan's Ferry. They have secured quite a good many signatures and will, it is understood, present the matter to the board at its next regular meeting the first Monday in February.

There are many arguments in favor of the construction of a bridge at this point. For one thing it is on the New York-Atlanta National Highway and would be used by hundreds of motorists every year. These at present either cross on the ferry boat or go to the Rozelle's Ferry bridge eight miles further up the river. Another argument in favor of a bridge at this point is the fact that there is already a macadam road on each side of the ferry. With a bridge there would be an unbroken link of macadam connecting Charlotte with Gastonia.

Mr. Gaston informs The Gazette that similar petitions are being circulated in every township in the county and that so far the success they are meeting is most encouraging. While there are a few who are opposed to this move the prevailing feeling is that this bridge would benefit both Gaston and Mecklenburg and that it should be built. Up to noon yesterday Mr. Gaston had secured over 300 signatures in Gastonia and has by no means completed his task. He states that the matter will be presented to the boards of both counties at their meetings the first Monday in February.

It is understood here that the people of Mecklenburg county are and have been for a long time favorable to the building of this bridge.

As to the character of the bridge and the cost nothing definite has as yet been considered though it is the purpose, of course, to construct a strong and durable bridge. It would cost perhaps \$25,000 or more. Just what proportion of this amount each county will expect to pay is, of course, a matter for speculation. It is presumed, however, that Mecklenburg, as in the case of the Rozelle Ferry bridge would be expected and would be willing to shoulder considerably more than half the cost.

Corn Prizes Awarded.

Recently The Gazette published the Gaston county corn record for the past year as furnished us by Mr. A. C. Stroup. The name of the prize winners were given then but the prizes had not been awarded. Mr. Stroup sends us today the list of prizes which are as follows: First prize on four acres, Mr. Charles Failes, \$20; second prize on four acres, Mr. J. R. Anthony, \$7; first prize on three acres, Mr. T. R. E. Oates, \$15; second prize on three acres, Mr. W. W. Failes, \$5; first prize on two acres, Mr. Dolph Harris, \$10; second prize on two acres, Mr. W. R. Crouse, \$5; first prize on one acre, Mr. Robert Lineberger, \$10; second prize on one acre, Mr. S. L. Carpenter, \$5; rocker

Death of a Child.

Charles, the little two-and-a-half-year-old son of Mr. John L. Brown, died at the latter's home near the Gray Mill at 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon following an illness of about six weeks from diphtheria, which settled upon the lungs and proved fatal. The little one's mother, who before her marriage to Mr. Brown was Miss Ollie Gardner, died in June of last year. Funeral services were conducted at the home at 2 o'clock this afternoon by Rev. W. H. Reddish, pastor of the First Baptist church, and the body was laid to rest beside that of the mother in Oakwood cemetery.

—Miss Nell McLean will return Monday to Decatur, Ga., to resume her studies in Agnes Scott Institute.

CATAWBA FARMERS.

They are Interested in the New Lewis Long Staple Cotton—Messrs. W. J. and R. L. Shuford Come to Gaston on Investigating Trip and Are Pleased—A Few Facts of Interest.

Two interesting visitors to Gastonia Tuesday were Mr. W. J. Shuford and Mr. R. L. Shuford, of Catawba county. The former is president of the Hickory Seed Company and the latter is one of the largest farmers and cattle raisers in Catawba county, which is a county of good farms and good farmers.

Their special mission was to visit the farm of Mr. E. P. Lewis, the originator of the Lewis Long Staple Cotton, two miles from town. Though it was one of the worst days of the winter, foggy, rainy and cold, the Messrs. Shuford drove to Mr. Lewis' farm and walked all over his cotton fields, examining the soil, etc. They had been reading of Mr. Lewis' great success in developing and raising an upland long staple cotton and wanted to see for themselves. The result of their visit was that they were convinced of the truthfulness of the statements which have been published regarding this cotton and of the practicability of raising long staple on uplands. Another result of their visit was that Mr. W. J. Shuford closed a deal with Mr. Lewis for a quantity of seed and will distribute them through his Hickory seed house.

Mr. W. J. Shuford is a member of the State Board of Agriculture from the Ninth Congressional District and is himself a successful farmer. He requested The Gazette to say to the farmers of Gaston county that he would be pleased at any time to serve them in any way possible. If any special institutes are desired or special instruction in any line of farming he asks that they call on him and he will provide for their requests with pleasure.

Mr. R. L. Shuford has on his farm in Catawba 100 head of fine Jersey cows from which he furnishes a large quantity of milk to the Hickory creamery which, by the way, we were informed, is a splendid success. Mr. Shuford also sold from his farm this year over \$1,000 worth of hogs, raised eight bales of cotton on six acres of land and produced other farm products in proportion. He experimented with some of the Lewis Long Staple Cotton the past season with success. The Gazette enjoyed a call from these gentlemen and found them interesting talkers and most affable gentlemen.

BUST OF RANSOM.

To be Unveiled at Raleigh January Eleventh—Program of Exercises.

The Gazette is in receipt of an invitation which reads as follows:

You are cordially invited to be present

at the ceremonies attendant upon the unveiling by the

North Carolina Historical Commission of a

Bust of the late Senator Matt W. Ransom

in the

hall of the House of Representatives

Raleigh, January 11, 1911

8 o'clock p. m.

The program is as follows:

1. Address: "Life and Character of Matt W. Ransom," by Hon. Robert W. Winston.

2. Address: By Hon. A. H. Boyden, Senator from the Twenty-sixth District.

3. Address: By Hon. B. S. Gay, Representative from Northampton county.

4. Presentation of the Bust: By Hon. J. Bryan Grimes, Chairman of the North Carolina Historical Commission.

5. Acceptance: By His Excellency, Hon. W. W. Kitchin, Governor of North Carolina.

The North Carolina Historical Commission is composed of J. Bryan Grimes, chairman; W. J. Peele, M. C. S. Noble, D. H. Hill, Thomas W. Blount, R. D. W. Connor, secretary.

—Mr. Robert W. Adams, who spent the holidays here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Adams, returned Tuesday night to Pittsburg, Pa., where he holds a responsible position with the Westinghouse Electric Co.

LIBRARY SUSPENDS.

Insufficiency of Funds Brings Crisis in History of Library—Directors Trying to Form Plans to Re-Open—A Statement.

The directors of the Gastonia Library Association met Tuesday afternoon to consider plans for work. The five beautiful silk flags recently presented to the library by the United Daughters of the Confederacy were received and a hearty vote of thanks was extended to these friends of the library.

The committee appointed to confer with the directors of the Y. M. C. A. then made its report. It may be necessary to recite a little history of the work in the past to give an understanding of the situation. The library has never been self-supporting; the dues are too small to make that possible. The local Y. M. C. A. has not been actively at work and has given the use of quarters in its building rent free and has also given the rental of other rooms in its building for current expenses. During the past these rentals have amounted to about thirty dollars per month until one of the offices became vacant some time ago. But with this income the library has not had sufficient money to increase the number of books in use, replace worn out books and buy magazines. In view of the fact that rentals in the Y. M. C. A. building increased January 1st and it was hoped that the library could get the use of this increase to enlarge its work, the library directors continued the work, although much embarrassed by lack of funds, until this week.

The committee reported that the Y. M. C. A. directors were unwilling to enlarge the appropriation, offering thirty dollars per month and quarters rent free. After carefully estimating necessary expenses and learning that the income was insufficient to meet them, the board concluded that it would be better to suspend work until ways and means could be devised to provide for the expenses. The board is now working on this problem and, if provision is not soon made, the library association will be called together to consider plans for the future.

GASTONIA'S POPULATION.

Census Gives Us 5,759 as Against 4,610 Ten Years Ago—Figures Somewhat Disappointing But Largest Growth Has Been Outside City Limits.

5,759.

These figures represent Gastonia's population according to the 1910 census. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington to yesterday morning's papers gave a list of the North Carolina towns having more than 5,000 people and it is given below:

CITIES OF OVER 5,000.

Cities.	1910	1900
Asheville	18,762	14,694
Charlotte	34,014	18,091
Concord	8,715	7,910
Durham	18,241	6,679
Elizabeth	8,412	6,348
Fayetteville	7,045	4,670
Gastonia	5,759	4,610
Goldensboro	6,017	5,877
Greensboro	15,895	10,038
High Point	9,525	4,163
Kinston	6,995	4,106
Newbern	9,961	9,090
Raleigh	19,218	13,643
Rocky Mount	8,051	2,937
Salem	5,533	3,642
Salisbury	7,153	6,277
Washington	6,211	4,842
Wilmington	25,748	20,976
Wilson	6,717	3,525
Winston	17,167	10,008

It is not to be denied that there was a feeling of disappointment among many Gastonians at the small increase of 1149 shown by the table. It is a fact—and some comfort can be gained therefrom—that at the time the census was taken many of the cotton mills in Gastonia were running on short time and many operatives had moved away temporarily. Still another fact from which some consolation is had is that, during the past ten years, while the city limits remained stationary, the growth has been largely on the outside. It is safe to say that there are just outside the city limits, around the several factories which are just across the line between 3000 and 4,000 which would give Gastonia a total of between 9,

HAS DONE MUCH.

Woman's Betterment Association Ends Second Year With Record of Many Things Accomplished—Officers for Ensuing Year to be Chosen Next Friday.

Two years is but a short time when the accomplishment of reforms of any kind is undertaken, but in that brief period the Gastonia Woman's Betterment Association has done many things which have tended to the betterment of the city schools and the town in general.

At the regular meeting next Friday afternoon in the Central school auditorium officers for the ensuing term will be chosen and a plan of action for the year 1911 outlined.

No attempt will be made here to tell of all the things which the association has accomplished in its short history. It is not amiss, however, to recall just a few of the larger things brought to pass. Perhaps the most important accomplishment of the entire two years was the consummation of a movement to have installed in all the city schools sanitary drinking fountains. In addition to inaugurating the campaign looking to this end and creating a sentiment favorable to it the association contributed the sum of \$100 for this purpose.

Anyone who recalls the condition of the grounds surrounding the Central school as it was two years ago cannot refrain from according the association great praise for the transformation which has been brought about there. From ragged and unkept grounds the premises have been worked into a shape which presents a most attractive appearance. The ground was laid off, fertilized, planted in grass, trees, shrubs and flowers were planted and a large play ground was made in the rear of the building. Cement steps to the building and on the terraces were made. The transformation has really been wonderful.

Still another thing accomplished during 1910 was the establishment of an annual flower show. The first one was held this fall and was a most decided success from every standpoint. This promises to be one of the most important annual events in Gastonia in the future.

As the results of the efforts of the association garbage cans were installed on Main avenue during the year and other means of keeping the town clean were inaugurated.

The above does not by any means represent all that the association has done. That the good women who compose this organization have done and will continue to do great things for Gastonia goes without saying. They should have the hearty co-operation of the entire citizenship of Gastonia in their efforts to bring about better conditions.

Stockholders Meet.

The sixth annual meeting of the stockholders of the Gastonia Mutual Building & Loan Association was held yesterday afternoon at the city hall. Mr. S. N. Boyce, president, presided over the meeting and only routine business was transacted. The report of the secretary and treasurer, Mr. E. G. McLurd, showed the affairs of the association to be in excellent condition. The year 1910 began with only 2,000 shares of stock in force, but ended with 2,445 shares, showing a net gain of 445 shares. The association has made loans on mortgages and shares, aggregating more than \$111,000. The earnings of each series of stock were set forth in the report, showing that shares of the first series, taken out January 1, 1905, will mature on time in the latter part of this year. The following directors were elected for the ensuing year: S. N. Boyce, T. W. Wilson, E. G. McLurd, W. T. Rankin, S. S. Shuford, B. T. Morris, A. M. Dixon, W. J. Clifford and L. F. Groves.

—Mr. H. P. Odom, of Edgerton, Ind., who has been visiting his nephews, Messrs. A. Q. and Frank Kale, at High Shoals, will arrive this afternoon to visit his brother-in-law, Mr. L. C. Carpenter, at the Modena.

000 and 10,000. The most conservative citizens, we believe, agree that these figures are about as nearly correct as any careful estimate can make them.