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NO. 3.

OVER GASTON COUNTY.

BESSEMER BRIEFS.

Correspondence of The Gazette.
BESSEMER CITY, Jan. 9.—The entire corps of teachers in the graded school returned yesterday and work was resumed this morning. Miss Amelabel Crawford, who has been detained at her home near Belmont for some months, took charge of her room today to the delight of her pupils. It is the general opinion that a very superior grade of work is being done by the superintendent and teachers of the Bessemer City School.

Dr. S. B. Turrentine, of Shelby, is expected here tomorrow to preside over the quarterly conference of the Methodist church. Interest attaches to his coming because it is his first visit here as presiding elder and because he served the Concord church near here about twenty years ago.

Rev. J. Frank Armstrong, pastor of the Methodist church here, will preach the annual sermon for the Improved Order of Red Men at Kings Mountain next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Representatives from all the tribes in the neighboring towns are expected and one or more of the State officers of the order will be present and make short addresses.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Chapman and son, Charlie, of Plauteau, have been visiting Mr. Thomas Broyles and family for several days. Mr. Chapman made a business trip to Kings Creek, S. C., returning here today.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Hastings, living just north of town, were sadly bereaved Friday by the death of their only daughter, a little child of 22 months. Funeral services were conducted from Concord church by Rev. J. F. Armstrong Saturday afternoon and the interment was in the church cemetery.

Mr. Pete Hastings, Sr., and daughter, Claude May, visited Mr. Hastings' daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Settlemeyer, at Chester, S. C., Saturday, returning today. Geraldine, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. McDowell, whose illness has been noted, was last week carried to a hospital in Rutherfordton for treatment. She has undergone an operation for appendicitis and is improving rapidly. Mr. McDowell spent yesterday with Mrs. McDowell and children at the hospital.—Mr. S. J. Durham spent most of last week in the Eastern part of the State on business.—Mr. J. T. R. Dameron is circulating a petition for a bridge across the Catawba river at Sloan's Ferry. The citizens here are heartily in favor of the bridge.—Rev. Mr. Hobbs, the new pastor of the Baptist church, is starting off well with his work. Good congregations attend the services and considerable enthusiasm is being manifested.

BESSEMER ROUTE ONE, NEWS.

BESSEMER CITY, ROUTE NO. 1, Jan. 9.—A pound supper was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bess Saturday night. A large crowd was present and all report a fine time.

The little five-months-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Kaster is quite ill, being threatened with pneumonia.

Messrs. Luther Kiser and Henderson Clark spent Sunday in Cherryville.—Mr. Charlie Neal, of Cherryville, purchased a fine horse from Mr. H. S. Sellers last week.—After spending the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Vandysse, Mr. J. P. Vandysse left Monday.—Messrs. Albert and Blain Sellers left a few days ago for Virginia where they will work in the coal mines.—Mr. Albert Warlick spent Sunday at Mr. M. R. Eaker's.—On account of the very bad weather there was no preaching Sunday at Smyrna church.—There will be preaching every fourth Sunday at eleven o'clock at Concord church.

The school at Sunnyside No. 1 has been converted into a graded school. Mr. Jesse Caldwell, of Cherryville, is superintendent with Miss Bessie McKeown as assistant. The school at Sunnyside No. 2 is making much progress under the management of Miss Pearl Sipe as teacher.

On January 8, 1911, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lee Rhodes, of New Orleans, La., a daughter, Mrs. Rhodes was formerly Miss Emma Page, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Page, of Gastonia.

RECITAL FRIDAY NIGHT.

Violin and Piano Pupils of Miss Atkins Will Give Public Entertainment at Central School Auditorium.

At 7:30 o'clock Friday evening in the auditorium of the Central graded school the violin and piano pupils of Miss Lillian Atkins will give a recital. The public is cordially invited to attend. Following is the program:

PART FIRST.

1. The Paper Chase, Lawson—Earl Groves.
2. Fifth Nocturne, Leybach—Nellie Mauney.
3. A Tone Poem (for violin) Kessler—Robert McLean.
4. The Little Patriot, op. 607, Engelmann—Harjee Todd.
5. Spring, op. 40, Marks—Maude Gray.
6. Rondeau Militaire (for violin) Mendelssohn—Lettie Starnes.
7. Les Sylphes, Bachman—May Harry.
8. Caprice (for violin) Mester—Erskine Boyce.
9. Whispering Winds, Wollenhaupt—Lucy Boyce.

PART SECOND—ORCHESTRA.

1. Overture, Sincerity, Barnard.
2. Traum der Sennnerin, op. 45, Labitzky (violin duet, accompanied by orchestra)—Erskine Boyce and Robert McLean.
3. Dixie Beauty, Barron.
4. Kiss of Spring, Rolfe.
5. March, On, Wisconsin, Purdy.

SMITH-FORD.

Popular Young Couple to be Married at Lowell Methodist Church—Will Reside Near Belmont.

Invitations reading as follows have been received by Gastonia friends of the contracting parties:

Mr. D. H. Ford requests the honor of your presence at the marriage of his daughter Mable to Mr. Thomas Smith on the evening of Wednesday, January eleventh at four o'clock at Lowell Methodist Episcopal Church Lowell, North Carolina.

The groom is a son of Mr. A. Murray Smith, who lives south of Belmont, while the bride is the accomplished and attractive daughter of Mr. D. Hill Ford, who lives near Lowell. Immediately following the ceremony at the church tomorrow afternoon the bridal party will drive to the home of the groom's father, Mr. A. Murray Smith, where a wedding supper will be given tomorrow night in honor of the bride and groom. Mr. and Mrs. Smith will make their home in the handsome new residence recently erected by Mr. Smith near Belmont.

Stockholders Meeting.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Citizens National Bank of Gastonia was held in the offices of the bank at 11 o'clock this morning. To the old board of directors consisting of Messrs. Andrew E. Moore, C. N. Evans, A. G. Myers, J. M. Sloan and W. T. Love, four new members were added, these being Messrs. T. E. Moore, G. M. Gullick, W. T. Rankin and H. M. Cleveland. The reports made to the stockholders showed the business of the bank to have been unusually good during the past year. The usual dividend was declared by the directors in December. After the adjournment of the stockholders the directors met and organized by electing the same officers under whom the bank has been so successfully conducted heretofore, as follows: President, Andrew E. Moore; Vice-President, C. N. Evans; Cashier, A. G. Myers.

A call was sent out this morning by the Comptroller of the Treasury for a statement of the condition of national banks. Reports of the Gastonia banks will be carried in the next issue of The Gazette.

One of the most important real estate deals in the history of Salisbury was terminated Monday when Dr. Leroy J. Meroney and sister, Miss Helen R. Meroney, of Philadelphia, relinquished the ownership of the Meroney theatre and the fine property passed into the hands of Mr. H. Clay Grubb, the consideration being \$65,000.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Legislature Asked to Probe State's Fire Insurance Companies—Revision of Constitution Sought—Near-Beer Bill Applies to Only One County—Other Proceedings.

Only brief sessions of both the House and Senate were held at Raleigh yesterday, both bodies adjourning out of respect to the memory of Representative Stewart, of Montgomery county, who died Sunday. A delegation of two Senators and five Representatives was sent to accompany the body to Mr. Stewart's late home at Star. Feeling tributes were paid to the memory of deceased.

Speaker Dowd of the House yesterday announced a number of committees.

A general bill which, it is proposed, shall enable any city in the State to adopt the much discussed commission form of government has been prepared and will be introduced at once in the House by Mr. R. H. Battle, member from Wake county.

Saturday's sessions were also very brief, the House being in session only half an hour and the Senate twenty minutes.

Representative A. C. Stroup, of Gaston, introduced a bill to regulate the rate of interest so that, by special contract, as high as 8 per cent may be charged instead of 6 as the maximum. McPhail, of Robeson, introduced a bill to prohibit the sale of cigarettes, cigarette paper or substitutes therefor.

Pace, of Wake, would require factories to keep first-aid medical supplies. Also make it a misdemeanor for employers to exact of employees that they do not join labor organizations.

Ewart, of Henderson, would prohibit paying poll tax to influence voters and another bill by Ewart would encourage the sheep industry, especially in Henderson county.

In the Senate, McLaughlin, of Cumberland offered the expected bill for Hoke county out of portions of Cumberland and Robeson with Raeford as the county seat.

The Senate received from the Corporation Commission its report of its investigation of freight rates from Carolina ports inland in compliance with a resolution of the 1909 session, the commission expressing the opinion that the Carolina rates are as low or lower than apply in Virginia or South Carolina.

A resolution passed the Senate requiring the United States flag unfurled over the State House during the Legislature as well as the State flag.

Quickel, of Lincoln county, introduced a bill asking for the repeal of the drainage law in Lincoln and Gaston counties.

In the Senate, Carpenter, of Gaston, introduced a bill appointing L. E. Hoover a justice of the peace.

Senator J. A. Brown, of Columbus, who is named by President Newland of the Senate as chairman of the finance committee, declares his intention to go in for a material reformation in the North Carolina method of tax assessment with a view to equalizing taxation among the counties and ridding the State of the forty-eight "pauper counties," so called because they receive from the State for schools and other purposes more money than they pay into the state treasury in taxes. He proposes to undertake getting through the Legislature an act that will create a separate State tax commission, relieving the corporation commission of this duty, and requiring of this commission that it equalize taxation by counties. He would have the commission completely removed from politics, possibly appointed by the Governor. He has thought of having it named by the Governor, the president of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Any way he would have no strings tied to it that would hamper it in its dealing out absolute equity in equalization of tax assessments. He would have these commissioners confer at the beginning of each assessment period with the county authorities, meeting the officers of the groups of counties in convenient railroad centers and explain just what is expected of them in the light of existing conditions. And he would clothe them with final authority to say just what the assessments must be. Where there are differences between the property owners and the local assessors he would have appeals go on to an in-

termediate board composed of say five men, one from each of a group of five counties. In this way no one county could be left alone to "juggle" its assessments so as to deprive the State of its equitable share of revenue. After this composite board has passed on the differences the State tax commission would have final say as to all assessments in all counties. Mr. Brown declares that he sees no reason why Buncombe county, for instance, should have her farm lands assessed at \$17 per acre and Robeson county, one of the biggest agricultural counties in the State, assessed at only \$6. And he sees no reason why counties like Cumberland, Chatham, Henderson and others—forty-eight in all according to the reports of the State Treasurer and the State tax commission—should be a burden to the other progressive counties. They had best be given to some other State, he says, or consolidated with others for economy in operating expenses.

Representative Stubbs, of Martin, imparted to the House proceedings the legislative feature of the day by the introduction of a bill providing a constitutional convention for North Carolina, composed as is the House of Representatives, to change the constitution which is, the bill declares, "in many particulars unsuited to the wants and conditions of our people." The bill provides for a vote in the general election of 1912 and if "convention" is voted it shall convene in Raleigh on the first Monday in May, 1913.

A joint resolution by Koonce, of Onslow, is a close second in importance, being for a court of inquiry of three from the House and two from the Senate with all the powers of a court to investigate the conduct of fire insurance companies in North Carolina. This is along the line of the recommendation of Governor Kitchin as to fire insurance legislation. Koonce appealed for his bill to be put on immediate passage, but there was decided objection to passing bills without reference to committee and it went to committee.

General Carr was also refused consent to put on immediate passage his bill to enable Trinity College to own more property, especially so that it can receive aid in rebuilding the administration building burned this week.

The Senate received from the House a bill passed yesterday prohibiting near-beer saloons in Macon county, it having been first reported as applying to the whole State. Senator Brown, in objecting to immediate passage, declared that there was such an overwhelming sentiment evident in the Assembly for such an act as to the entire State that he advised holding the Macon bill in committee until this was done, or at least acted upon. This course was taken.

Two bills in the Senate of general interest were by Senator Fisher, of Polk, favoring New Orleans for the Panama canal celebration, and by Holden, of Franklin, ratifying the sixteenth amendment to the Federal constitution.

A bill by Battle, of Wake, would reduce peremptory challenges by defendants from 23 to 9, give the State 7, and empower judges to summon jurors from adjoining counties when deemed expedient.

Mr. Burton Craig, of the Salisbury bar and one of the ablest young lawyers in the State, has just been appointed special counsel for the American Tobacco Company with headquarters at Winston-Salem where the R. J. Reynolds branch is located. His salary is \$10,000 a year.

Judge Lamar, of Georgia, appointed a United States Supreme Court Justice by President Taft, is a second cousin of the notable L. G. C. Lamar, of Mississippi, who was appointed to the court by President Cleveland in 1888, and who served there until his death in 1893.

Mrs. H. O. Bannister and her 17-months-old child were found dead in the bath room of their home in Raleigh Saturday. Death was due to asphyxiation, the result of an improper attempt to light an instantaneous gas heater. Mr. Bannister is manager of the Western Union telegraph office at Raleigh.

Mr. W. A. Gardner, of Lowell, route two, was in Gastonia on business Saturday.

TO INSTALL OFFICERS.

Local Knights of Pythias to Have "House-Warming" in Their New Hall Next Monday Night—Grand Chancellor McCauseland and Other Prominent Pythians to be Present and Participate.

Next Monday night will be one of unusual interest to the Pythians of Gastonia and Gaston county as at that time the local lodge, No. 53, will make the regular semi-annual installation of officers the occasion for a "house-warming" in its handsome new hall on the fifth floor of the Reaky building. At the regular weekly meeting last night the program for this occasion was completed and is given below. Invitations will be issued to the several lodges in the county to attend and every member of the local lodge will be given a special invitation to come and bring with him a friend, preferably a lady.

A special feature of the evening will be the presence of Grand Chancellor A. E. McCauseland, of Charlotte, who will install the officers and who will also deliver the principal address of the evening. Light refreshments will be served and everything will be informal, no full dress will be expected.

Following is the program:

1. Address of Welcome by Rev. W. H. Hardin, Chancellor Commander.

2. Response to Address of Welcome by Major J. G. Baird, of Charlotte, editor of The Carolina Pythian.

3. Address, "Pythians in Gaston County," by Mr. A. G. Mangum.

4. Address, "The Lodge and Our Wives," by Mr. S. J. Durham.

5. Address, "The Good of the Order," by Mr. George W. Wilson.

6. Address, "Pythianism in North Carolina," by Mr. A. E. McCauseland, of Charlotte, Grand Chancellor of the Domain of North Carolina.

7. Installation of Officers, conducted by Grand Chancellor McCauseland.

The following committees were appointed at last night's meeting: To meet visitors—Messrs. G. H. Marvin, R. B. Babington, J. W. Atkins; refreshments—Mr. E. N. Pegram and Miss Marie Hardin, Mr. R. L. Adams and Miss Bertha Long.

Music will be furnished by Miss Lillian Atkins' Orchestra.

FOUGHT TO A FINISH.

Tiger and Crocodile in a Battle in the Water.

In India a native went to bathe in a ravine. He was in the water up to his neck when a tiger on the hill above gave a leap toward its prey. But the tiger had not calculated that, since his victim was much lower than himself, a leap of the right strength for a horizontal range would carry him far beyond his mark; consequently he fell some ten feet on the other side.

Now, it happened that a hungry crocodile was at the same time drawing a bee line under water toward the native. When the crocodile had almost come upon his prey he heard a splash just in front and made a dash, bringing his enormous jaws down on the tiger's paw.

The bather nearly fainted with fright when he saw the tiger fall into the water, and for a few moments he could not understand why the creature did not devour him. Why did he persist in keeping one of his paws under water, beating savagely with the other? And the water turned red!

Then all at once the assaults of the tiger became more furious, and his growls developed into roars. The huge tail of a crocodile reared up out of the water. The obvious intention was to pull the tiger under water and drown him, and the tiger, understanding this purpose, tried to frustrate it by beating the snout of the crocodile with his other paw. But the snout was too far down, and he left much of his force on the surface of the water. His struggles became more and more feeble, and at length he disappeared altogether, only a cluster of bubbles remaining to show where he had been.

His fight, however, had been a game one, not entirely in vain, for when the bodies of the two beasts finally came to the surface it was seen that the tiger had literally torn away the whole front of the crocodile's face and had blinded it so that its victory was a useless one.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Messrs. Dane S. Rhyne, Irvin Lewis and Eubert Ratchford left yesterday for Rutherfordton to resume their studies in the Westminster School.

MRS. L. A. MASON DEAD.

Widow of Late Col. L. A. Mason Passes Away at Home of Her Son in Salisbury—Body Brought to Dallas for Burial, the Funeral Being Held There Saturday.

Mrs. Rebecca McLean Mason, widow of the late Col. L. A. Mason, during his life one of Gaston county's distinguished citizens and who died about three years ago, passed away Friday morning at 3:15 a. m. at the home of her son, Mr. John Craig Mason, in Salisbury, following an illness of some time. Her body was brought to Gastonia on No. 11 Friday and taken to Dallas where interment was made Saturday morning, following funeral services which were held at the Presbyterian church at 11 o'clock, Rev. R. C. Anderson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Gastonia, officiating.

Rebecca McLean Craig was a daughter of Samuel M. and Mary Pegram Craig, of Gaston county, and was born September 14, 1842, and was hence in her sixty-ninth year. She was married to the late Col. L. A. Mason, of Dallas, in April, 1877. The following children survive, viz: Mr. John Craig Mason, of Salisbury; Mrs. Mary Pegram Sandifer, of Dallas, and Mary Stowe Mason. She was the step-mother of Mr. O. F. Mason, of Dallas. Since the death of her husband three years ago she has made her home alternately at Salisbury and Dallas with her children.

Deceased was a life-long member of the Presbyterian church to which she was ever loyal. She had hosts of friends to whom the news of her death will bring sorrow.

To Establish Truck Farm.

Mr. C. S. Brown, of Florence, S. C., recently purchased some land from Mr. C. W. Boyd on route one, Gastonia, and will establish thereon a truck farm. It will be known as the Gaston Vegetable and Seed Farm with C. S. Brown & Co. as proprietors. In addition to raising truck this farm will operate a hennery from which they expect to furnish quite a good many eggs to the local market. Mr. Brown's plan is to market his products through the local dealers in preference to peddling them. Having had experience in this line of business both in Maryland and South Carolina, Mr. Brown is well qualified to operate such a farm here. That he will find a ready market for all his products is a foregone conclusion. In fact there has long been a very patent need of just such a farm near Gastonia. Gaston needs more men who will make a specialty of this class of farming and will welcome Mr. Brown and his associates. A year ago Mr. Brown visited this section and was so pleased both with the prospects for such a business as he wished to establish and with the salubrious climate that he decided then that he would settle here and make Gaston his home in the future.

Elopers Arrested.

J. W. Gurley and Isabelle Johnson were arrested at the Old Mill this morning by patrolman T. N. Williams upon information from the Branch Detective Agency, of Charlotte, that Gurley was wanted at that place on a charge of seduction. A reward of \$25 was offered for his arrest. The couple had been living at the Old Mill as man and wife for about three weeks, and the girl claims that they were regularly married. A representative of the Branch agency came to Gastonia at noon today and will either take the couple back to Charlotte, or if necessary, bring charges on which Gurley can be tried here. It is said that Gurley has a wife living, whom he deserted to elope with the Johnson girl.

Attended Uncle's Funeral.

The following item is from the Pineville correspondence of Saturday's Charlotte Chronicle: "Mr. J. A. Thrower, of the village, was summoned last week to Mt. Holly to attend the funeral of his uncle, Mr. Nathan Thrower, who died very suddenly at his home at that place. Mr. Thrower had retired the night before in his usual health, but was found dead the next morning when one of the family called him for breakfast. He had numerous relatives and many friends in Pineville where he formerly lived."