

# THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

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NO. 37.

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

Graded Schools Close With Appropriate Program—Eight Graduates—Mr. D. B. Smith Speaks on "Good Citizenship"—The Prize Winners.

With the awarding of certificates of graduation to three young men and five young ladies, the awarding of prizes and the delivery of the annual address in the auditorium of the Central graded school last night, the scholastic year of the Gastonia graded schools came to an end. When the graduates marched in at 8:45 o'clock and took their seats on the stage the auditorium was filled with the parents and friends of the students and of the school, every available seat in pit and gallery being taken.

Following the invocation by Rev. W. H. Reddish and a chorus, "Welcome, Spring," by forty or fifty voices, the salutatory was delivered by Miss Annie Glenn, of the graduating class, who acquitted herself in a most creditable manner.

Mr. D. B. Smith, of the Charlotte bar, was then introduced and delivered the annual literary address, acknowledged by all who heard him to be a splendid presentation of a subject of vital importance to the old and the young. His subject was "Good Citizenship" and he dealt with it in a practical manner. There are three marks of a good citizen: First, to preserve the purity of the ballot; second, to see that there is a rigid and impartial enforcement of the law; third, to assist in curbing the onward march of special privilege, which is working so much evil in this country at the present time.

He elaborated on each of these three topics, describing the duties which devolve upon the citizen who does his duty. The speaker touched on some of the evil tendencies of the times in our country, especially the rule of the political boss and the wave of corruption which has lately manifested itself in wholesale bribery in the law-making bodies of many sections of the United States. He deplored the present-day tendency of business and professional men to shun jury duty and thus leave one of the most important duties of citizenship to the hands of professional jurymen and court house hangers-on who have an eye single to the per diem and are neither qualified to nor desirous of administering justice.

Mr. Smith spoke in an optimistic strain. Notwithstanding the fact that our system often fails to result in giving justice in the courts and notwithstanding the political rottenness and corruption that stalk abroad in the land, our system itself is the best there is and there is sufficient manhood in our country, when aroused, to bring about a reformation of these evils.

The address was heard throughout with intense interest by both old and young and if the truths spoken and the admonitions given are heeded by those who heard it will result in great good. Mr. Smith is a pleasing speaker and Gastonia enjoyed this, his first visit to us, as a public speaker.

At the conclusion of the address Mr. J. W. Timberlake, of the local bar, presented to Mr. Ernest Herman the gold medal given annually by Gastonia Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy to the member of the graduating class writing the best essay on some phase of the civil war, a different subject being assigned each year. This year's subject was "North Carolina's Part in the Civil War." Mr. Timberlake, in awarding the medal, spoke appreciatively of the good work the Daughters are doing in perpetuating the memories of the brave Southerners who fought for Dixie and in stimulating in the young people of the present a desire to know the facts relating to the great struggle. The winner of the medal is a son of Rev. and Mrs. George D. Herman. Immediately after the awarding of the prize Mr. Herman read his essay, which was a comprehensive and well-written paper setting forth the part of the Old North State played in the great drama of the civil war.

Mr. P. W. Garland, of the local bar, was then introduced and awarded to Miss Louisa Reid, the gold medal given annually by the Torrence-Morris Company, jewelers, for the best oral reproduction of a story. Mr. Garland told of the inestimable value of one's being able to tell what he knew. He was most happy in his remarks. Miss Reid is a daughter of Prof. and Mrs. J. P. Reid. She won this same prize two

## COMMENDS WEBB.

President Alexander of State Farmers Union Endorses Congressman's Position on Reciprocity.

Congressman Webb has just received a letter from Dr. H. Q. Alexander, President of the State Farmers' Union, in which he says:

"I approve of your course in opposing the reciprocity treaty with Canada as it was presented to the House by the President. That treaty is not fair or just. It seeks to lower the cost of living but taxes the farmer with the reduction, without in any way compensating him for his loss. And I am not sure that it would even lower the cost of food products to the consumer. All articles put on the free list are in the raw state. No manufactured products are admitted free. The farmers and laborers produce the raw materials. Capital converts it into the finished product. Capital is protected. The man must fight unaided for his living. The Dollar is placed above the man. This has been the policy of our government in all tariff legislation. It is a shame and an outrage on a so-called free people. The masses have tolerated it just about long enough."

Dr. Alexander is a farmer, a former member of the State Legislature from Mecklenburg county, and one of the most intelligent and honored citizens of the State.

Concord postoffice has been designated as a postal savings bank, being one of 36 additional offices so designated by the Postmaster General Sunday.

Oklahoma City has been chosen as the place for holding the next General Conference of the Southern Methodist church in May, 1914.

years ago.

Prof. Jule B. Warren, of Durham, was next called on to deliver the superintendent's prize, a \$5 gold piece, given annually for leadership in scholarship in the tenth grade. Mr. Warren was formerly principal of the Central school but is now on The Herald at Durham. When he arose to make his presentation speech he was greeted with hearty applause from his friends and former pupils. This prize went to Mr. Ernest Herman.

Other prizes were awarded as follows, the presentation being made by Supt. Wray: Torrence-Morris Co. prize for the best kept room at the Central school to Miss Eunice Bryan's room, fifth grade; Torrence-Morris Co. prize for best kept mill school and grounds to the avon school, taught by Miss Jane Morris; Woman's Betterment Association prize to room having the best record for punctuality to Miss Carrie Glenn's room, second grade; declamation prize to Mr. Robert McLean; reader's prize to Miss Margaret LaFar; superintendent's prize to leaders in other grades to Miss Pauline McFadden, seventh grade; Miss Louisa Reid, eighth grade; Mr. Raymond Ratchford, ninth grade.

In behalf of the city and of the patrons of the schools, Mayor Pro Tem J. H. Separk made a short speech in which he thanked Supt. Wray and his efficient corps of teachers for their excellent work during the year just closed.

Certificates of graduation were presented by the superintendent to the following: Misses Annie Torrence Glenn, Nellie Rose Sloan, Itara Evelyn Wilson, Susie Rankin and Lucy Boyce and Messrs. Ernest Knox Herman, John Edgar B. McLean and Dana Caldwell.

Mr. Ernest Herman delivered the valedictory and the program closed with the class song.

The marshals were as follows, viz: Kenneth Lewis, chief; John Elliott, Raymond Ratchford, Mabel McArver, Helen Jackson, Mabel Herman, Madelyn Thomson, Ruby Spencer, Olive Reid.

The class organization was as follows, viz: Ernest Herman, president; Susie Rankin, vice president; Nellie Rose Sloan, secretary, Edgar McLean, treasurer.

### CLASS DAY EXERCISES.

The class day exercises took place at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the Central school the program being as follows: History, Lucy Boyce; poem, Nellie Rose Sloan; statistics, Edgar McLean; trophies, Dana Caldwell; prophecy, Itara Wilson; on the grounds—ivy poem, Nellie Rose Sloan; planting of ivy by class; class will, Susie Rankin; class song.

## WANT TRACKS LOWERED.

Citizens Will Present Petition to City Council To-Night Asking That C. & N.-W. Railway be Required to Lower Tracks to Conform to Street Grade and to Establish Street Grade if There is None—Also Want Switch Wires Put Underground.

A petition signed by a goodly number of citizens from all sections of the city will be presented to the city council at its regular monthly meeting tonight asking that the C. & N.-W. Railway be required to lower its tracks on Broad street and elsewhere, if necessary, in order that it may conform to an established street grade, if there is one, and if there is no street grade, asking that the city establish one. The petition also asks that the council require the railroad to either remove entirely or put underground its switch wires which are a menace to the life of both people and animals on South Broad street. It is greatly desired that action in this matter be taken before the Piedmont Traction Company begins to lay its Franklin avenue tracks.

Following is a copy of the petition:

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gastonia, North Carolina:

The undersigned petitioners, citizens of the town of Gastonia, respectfully show:

That there is much disparity between the street grade and the grade of the road-bed of the Carolina & Northwestern Railway at the crossing on Marietta street and between Marietta and Third and Fourth avenues.

That it is greatly to the interests of the public welfare, both from the standpoint of usefulness and convenience, as well as from ornamental considerations, that the railway crossing conform to the street grade at said crossings.

And said petitioners would further show that the said railway has signal wires above the ground and along its track on Broad street and other streets in said town; that, as petitioners believe and allege, said wires as now constructed are dangerous to the life and well-being of people and animals and should be removed or placed underground.

Therefore petitioners urge and request:

1. That such action as may be necessary be immediately taken by said mayor and board to have said railway adapt its said road grade to the established street grade of the town, if there is an established street grade, and if at this time there is no established street grade, then the undersigned request that the necessary action to determine and establish a street grade at said crossings be at once taken, and after such grades are so determined and established, that said steps be taken to have conformity between the railway and street grade so established.

Petitioners urge the advisability of such action prior to the construction of the track of the Piedmont Traction Company along Franklin avenue, which petitioners are informed is contemplated in the near future.

2. That said Carolina & Northwestern Railway be required by said mayor and board to change said signal wires and either remove them entirely or place the same underground in a manner that will not hazard the safety of people and animals.

This 8th day of May, 1911.

—The Gazette is requested to state that every member of the Gastonia Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy is expected to contribute a basket to the dinner to be served the Confederate veterans of the county on Memorial Day, next Wednesday. The chapter will also gratefully receive baskets or any edibles from housekeepers of the town who are not members of the chapter but who wish to contribute to this cause. All are requested to send their baskets or other articles to the Craig & Wilson building Wednesday morning, May 10th.

Dr. Clarence Pickens, a prominent young dentist of Weaverville, was tried in Buncombe Superior Court last week on a charge of murdering Jerome and Furman Capps last summer and was acquitted. His plea was self-defense.

## CELEBRATION TO MORROW.

Memorial Day to be Fittingly Observed—Feature Will be Address by Congressman Webb—Dinner to Veterans and Ex-Slaves—Exercises to Begin at 11 O'Clock at Court House.

Tomorrow will be a day of unusual interest to all the Confederate veterans of Gastonia county and to many others as well. It will be Memorial Day and the occasion will be fittingly observed here as usual with a celebration under the auspices of Gastonia Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy. The court room has been secured for the exercises which will begin at eleven o'clock, the hour being appointed a little later than usual because of the fact that Congressman E. Y. Webb, who is to deliver the principal address, will not reach here until No. 37 arrives at 10:30.

There are now on the rolls of William Gamble Camp, Confederate Veterans, the names of 286 veterans and the ladies hope that every one of these will be present if at all possible. Special invitations were sent to each veteran in the county.

A feature of this year's celebration, as previously noted, will be a dinner to be served to all the male ex-slaves who went with their masters to the war or who, remaining behind, did some service for the Southern cause. It is stated that there are about 35 of these in the county and it is hoped that all of them will be on hand to partake of the dinner which will be spread for them.

Following is the program in full: Prayer, by Rev. J. J. Kennedy. Song, "My Country 'Tis of Thee," by the choir.

Roll Call. Song, "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," by male quartet, Messrs. Wilson, Moore, Wetzel and Padgett. Presentation of Picture of Confederate Flags to Graded Schools, by Mrs. S. A. Kindley.

Unveiling of Picture, by Misses Ruth Boyce and Nellie Rose Sloan. Acceptance of Picture, by Prof. J. S. Wray. Solo, by Miss Eliza Lindsay. Introduction of speaker, by Hon. O. F. Mason.

Address, by Hon. E. Y. Webb. Presentation of Crosses of Honor, by Mrs. H. M. Eddleman. Benediction, by Rev. John Hall. March to Oakwood Cemetery. Song, "The Christian's Good Night."

Decoration of Graves by Children of the Confederacy.

Prayer and Benediction, by Rev. Dr. J. C. Galloway. Immediately after the exercises the veterans will go in a body to the Craig & Wilson building where the ladies will serve a splendid dinner as usual. After the veterans have finished, a dinner will be spread in the same building for the ex-slaves of the county as indicated above. There are only about 35 of these now living in the county.

## School Board Meets.

At a meeting of the city school board held Friday night the following teachers were re-elected: Central school, Misses Ella Bradley, Hassie L. Ponder, Eula Glenn, May Withers, Eunice Bryan, Ethel Jay, Zoe Porter, Mary Whitesides and Carrie Glenn; Mill schools, Misses Jane Morris, Pearl Gallant, Ella Lewis and Carrie Morris; colored schools, J. A. Rollins, principal, Cora Mauney, Maud Blake and Mamie L. Rhodes. The following committees were named: On text books and course of study, J. P. Reid, D. E. McConnell; on buildings and grounds, D. E. McConnell, J. P. Reid, S. Settlemyer; on finance and auditing, S. N. Boyce, T. M. McEntire, A. M. Smyre; on purchasing supplies, D. E. McConnell and S. Settlemyer. It was decided to elect a principal for the Central school and Messrs. S. N. Boyce and B. F. S. Austin were named as a committee on applications.

## Watkins Given 18 Months.

In Buncombe Superior Court Saturday Judge Webb sentenced Fleet Watkins, formerly town constable at Black Mountain, to 18 months in the State prison for the killing of John Hill Bunting, of Wilmington, at the Gladstone hotel, Black Mountain, August 6, 1909. The jury found Watkins guilty of manslaughter. Bunting was a brother of Dr. R. C. Bunting, formerly of Gastonia.

## SUFFERING CONTINUES.

Miss Attie Bostick Writes of Horrible Scenes in Famine Stricken District of China and Appeals for Help for the Sufferers.

The following letter was received a few days ago by Mrs. C. P. Robinson and The Gazette reproduces it with the hope that all of the readers of this paper will read and reflect. Our people have contributed generously to the help of these sufferers but it seems that there is still great need:

Pochow, Anwhei, China, March 29, 1911.

Dear Friend:—

In behalf of the poor famine sufferers we thank you most sincerely for your contribution which has just been received. Could these who are receiving help see you I am sure they would not fail to show you their deep appreciation for your interest in them. But the conditions are such as to need your continued interest for the siege is yet a long one and the needs are great. Even with the generous help that has been given we hear that some have come to such extreme need as to feed on the flesh of their fellow creatures who had already fallen victims to the wolf of hunger.

Wheat bran now sells for what was ordinarily considered a high price for good flour. Dry potato leaves find ready sale and a dry hard cake made from the sesame seed that have all the soil pressed from them is now a common article of food. This is used in common times to fertilize the land. All the cooking it has had is the drying in the sun and many of them eat it without even warming it in the hot ashes that really adds to the palatableness as well as the healthfulness of it. Those who eat it find themselves burning from inward fevers and so thirsty they cannot endure it and not being able to buy tea or boiled water, they drink freely of cold unboiled water and very often this results in death. I gave some of this cake to our dog and he ate it with apparent relish but would not touch other food the next day and was constantly hunting for cold water to drink. If it affects a dog this way how must human beings feel who eat it day after day.

Only this week a little baby boy was brought to our gate and offered to me for the petty sum of one hundred and fifty cash, not five cents in gold. The mother had starved to death and the father was sick and not expected to live and this man, a beggar, was carrying this bright little human being around offering him for sale as common wares are daily offered at our gates. Surely there is enough in the hands of God's children to give these starving ones and to stop such trading as this. And even the heathen, who know not the true God, are moved with compassion at such scenes. The same day this child was offered for sale, an old woman past sixty came to my guest room to see me, and as I met her she held out her poor swollen hands for me to see and said, "I can never come to see you again," and I felt she was speaking the truth, for death will soon claim her. She said that, out of the family of eight, three had already starved to death.

It is all so sad and heart sickening. If we go out into the country for a short walk, hoping to forget and put aside such scenes for a while at least, we are greeted with groups of dogs and flocks of crows congregated together among the graves and we know all too well that a shallow grave has been scratched open by the hungry dogs and that the victim is furnishing food for the crows and dogs. Most of the poor dead are just wrapped in matting and buried and some who have died on the streets have not even had a burial of this kind before the dogs begin to feed on them, and even the thin coffins that are furnished by the city authorities for the dead are so thin as to be easily scratched open by these hungry dogs. But I need not write more of these horrible scenes, for I am sure I have said enough to insure your sympathy and help for these needy ones and it is only for their sakes that I ask you to share on paper sights that greet us every day.

Sincerely,

ATTIE T. BOSTICK.

The Southern Baptist Convention will meet at Jacksonville, Fla., May 17th. There will be delegates in attendance from every Southern State.

## RIFLE CONTEST CLOSSES.

Asheville Team Gets Lion's Share of Prizes—R. C. Gilbert of Gaston Guards, Wins Gold Watch—Boys Had a Good Time and Left for Homes Friday.

Asheville's rifle team carried off the lion's share of prizes awarded Friday afternoon at the conclusion of the three-days contest held at Leinster Range here and participated in by teams from the twelve companies of the First Infantry and Companies 4 and 5 of the Coast Artillery. Company K, of Asheville, won the first prize for the highest score in rifle shooting, \$20 in gold. The second prize, \$15 in gold, went to Co. F, also of Asheville. Private J. H. Brown, of Co. K, Asheville, won the small loving cup given by the Torrence-Morris Co. given to the enlisted man making the highest score in the rifle contest. Private Brown also won the \$5 in gold given to the individual making the highest score and also the regimental medal for the same thing.

First Lieutenant Charles B. Ross, of the Fifth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, Charlotte, won the loving cup given by the Torrence-Morris Co. to the officer making the highest score in pistol competition, his record being 166 out of a possible 200. J. H. Koon, of Asheville, came second in this contest with a record of 156 out of a possible 200. The third prize, \$10 in gold, for the highest score in the rifle contest, went to the Fifth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, Charlotte.

R. C. Gilbert, of Co. B, Gastonia, won the gold watch given by Mr. G. H. Marvin, manager of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, to the member of the Gaston Guards making the highest score in the rifle contest.

Because of the rain Friday morning there was some delay and for a while it looked as if it would be impossible to complete the contest. However, the entire program was finished by about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and the teams assembled in the rooms of the Commercial Club where Adjutant-General R. L. Leinster awarded the prizes to the winners with the exception of the gold watch which was presented by Capt. A. L. Bulwinkle, of the Gaston Guards. Before leaving the club a rising vote of thanks was tendered the Piedmont Telephone & Telegraph Co. for the free installation and use of phones at the camp and range, to Captain Bulwinkle and his assistants for their splendid entertainment of the visiting teams, to the Torrence-Morris Co. and Mr. G. H. Marvin for the prizes given and to the citizens of the town for the interest they displayed and the cordial welcome they extended the teams.

The men left for their homes on the afternoon trains after having enjoyed a three-days stay at Camp Holland.

## WINNERS OF STATE PRIZES.

A dispatch sent out from Raleigh Saturday gives the following resume of the winners in the three contests held last week:

Adjutant-General Leinster announced today that company B, third infantry, Captain W. F. Moody, Raleigh, is winner of the Dupont loving cup trophy that was the grand prize for the best rifle range score in the team contests held the past three weeks by the regiments at Raleigh, Goldsboro and Gastonia respectively, for the third, second and first regiments. The winning score of the Raleigh team was 1,090. The next highest was the team of company L, second regiment, Lumber Bridge, 1,080; the third, company D, third infantry, Goldsboro, 1,071, and the fourth highest company K, first infantry, Asheville, 1,066. The Royter gold medal for the highest individual score in all three shoots was won by Private J. H. Brown, company K, first regiment, Asheville, his score being 127 out of a possible 150, the McGhee medal for the second highest individual score went to Corporal Wade, of company D, second infantry, Goldsboro, his score being 125.

A commission composed of duly appointed representatives from the Southern Methodist Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Protestant Church are in session at Chattanooga, Tenn., this week to consider important matters bearing on the proposed consolidation of these three denominations into one. The principal phase of their discussions will be of unification through re-organization.