

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

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GASTONIA IS A BUSY TOWN.

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NO. 100

NEWS FROM NEARBY TOWNS

WORK ON DEPOT.

Interurban Station at Lowell Being Pushed to Completion—Mr. R. F. Rankin the Contractor—Big Fill at South Fork Nearly Completed—Live Lowell Locals.

Correspondence of The Gazette. LOWELL, Dec. 14.—Work on the new interurban depot is progressing nicely now. Mr. R. F. Rankin has the contract. Mr. Posing, of Hendersonville, is foreman. The big fill at the South Fork bridge is about completed and the steam shovel will be through work here in about another month.

Miss Nina Patrick visited in Matthews Friday, returning Sunday. Mr. Sam Wilson, youngest brother of Mr. Jim Wilson, came in the other day from a six-years stay in the northwest. He will return after Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Thompson made a visit last week to Mr. Thompson's old home at Williamston, S. C.—Mrs. Thomas Ford arrived here Monday from her old home near Whitmore, S. C., where she had gone on a visit about two months ago and was detained on account of a case of typhoid fever she developed while visiting there. Her friends here are extremely glad to see her here once more.

Mr. Quinn Ford was at home a few days the first of the month and left about the 30th for Mobile, Ala.

The first quarterly conference of the Lowell and Dallas circuits will be held next Saturday at 10 o'clock. All members are urged to be present.—Rev. E. N. Crowder, the Methodist pastor here, has just purchased a new horse and buggy.—There will be a Christmas tree at the Methodist church Saturday night, the 23rd.—Hugh Parks Miller spent Sunday here with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. R. A. Miller.—The only child of Mr. and Mrs. Nell Teague died Monday at their home near the school building.

Dallas, Route 1, News.

Correspondence of The Gazette. DALLAS, R. F. D. 1, Dec. 14.—Mr. J. A. Aderholdt is putting a new roof on his dwelling house and making other repairs.—Messrs. Jasper and George Ratchford spent the week-end visiting at the home of their brother, Mr. J. J. Ratchford, in Catawba county.—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lohr, of Dallas, visited at the home of Mrs. Sarah Pasour Sunday afternoon.—Miss Eunice Allen was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. White Friday night.—Mr. and Mrs. G. E. C. Pasour visited at the home of Mr. W. A. Thomas in the Pisgah neighborhood Wednesday.—Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Ratchford were guests Sunday at the home of Mr. H. L. Rhyne, near Bessemer City.—Messdames Christie and R. L. Jenkins visited Mrs. C. R. Pasour one day last week.—Mr. M. D. Clemmer spent the week-end in North Gaston as the guest of his daughter, Mrs. Michael Kiser.

—The Sunday school of Lowell Methodist church will give a Christmas tree and a treat to the children on Saturday night before Christmas.

EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

Mr. Zemi Kiser Will Celebrate Eighty-Fifth Birthday December 26th at Home on Bessemer City Route Two—Served Through Civil War—Still Spry at Advanced Age.

Correspondence of The Gazette. BESSEMER CITY, R. F. D. 2.—On Tuesday, December 26th, there will be a reunion at the home of Mr. Zemi Kiser to celebrate his 85th birthday. This has been an annual affair for some years. Mr. Kiser was one of North Carolina's brave young sons who entered the Confederate army in the struggle between the States. He was always noted for his promptness and bravery. Since the war he has been a resident of Gaston county and is among its most highly esteemed citizens.

Mr. Kiser is considered very spry for his age and still enjoys games with the boys of his community. He enlisted in the Thirty-fourth North Carolina Regiment, Co. E. Nothing would please him more than for all of the old soldiers that can join in and aid in the celebration of his birthday to come. Everybody is cordially invited to come and bring well-filled baskets. So let us all join in and celebrate this day with the man who marched through the swamp and left the stain of blood when he would put his foot down. He always has a good time and enjoys the day very much. Mrs. Mae Payne and Mrs. Barbara Kiser were shoppers in Cherryville Monday.—Mr. D. A. Stroup killed a hog last week that was nine months old and weighed dressed three hundred pounds.—Mr. C. Moore and family spent a few days with relatives in Waco the first of the week.

ARIZONA IS DEMOCRATIC.

Two Senators and a Representative to Swell Vote in Congress.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 13.—The Democrats of Arizona will place two members in the United States Senate and one member in the House of Representatives, a Governor in the State Capitol at Phoenix and if present indications are not materially changed, will make a clean sweep of the State ticket as a result of the first State election.

The legislature from present indications will be more than three-fourths Democratic, insuring the election of Henry F. Ashurst of Prescott and Mark A. Tucson to the United States Senate. Carl Hayden of Phoenix was elected to Congress. George W. P. Hunt of Globe was elected Governor. Democratic State Chairman J. B. Birdno issued a statement tonight, claiming the election of the Democratic candidates by majorities ranging from 1500 to 2000.

Secretary Hayes of the Republican State committee conceded victory to the Democrats.

Prices drop at Settlemyer's Saturday morning and stay down till January 1st.

MASONIC LECTURER.

Mr. Patton at Bessemer City—Bazaar Given by Civic League a Success—Dredging Boat at Work—Breezy Briefs from Bessemer City.

Correspondence of The Gazette. BESSEMER CITY, R. F. D. 14.—Mr. Patton, of Elon College, is in Bessemer City this week. Rev. Mr. Patton is grand lecturer for the Masonic order for the State and your correspondent is informed that he lectures three times each day.

The Civic League cleared about \$35 dollars at the bazaar last Saturday night. The ladies spared no time or pains to make the affair a decided success. The room was beautifully decorated with a few potted plants, Christmas bells and a large Japanese umbrella. There was a unique arrangement called a fish pond. It was a tub filled with saw dust in which were hidden many small articles to which was attached a string thereby catching his "fish."

Miss Arrowood, of Shelby, is spending a few days at the home of her father near town and also with her sister, Mrs. T. R. E. Oates, on Crowders Creek.

The dredging boat has begun its work and many persons have visited and are still visiting the scene of its operations. Mr. Vernon Harrelson and Miss Maggie Hall, of Cherryville, were guests the first of the week at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. P. Harrelson.—Mr. T. A. Stewart, whose illness was noted last week, went to Charlotte where he underwent an examination with an X-ray machine and it was discovered that he is suffering from an abscess near the heart. It has been discharging very freely and Mr. Stewart is much better.

Some work is being done around our depot in the way of repairs on the surrounding floors.—Rev. and Mrs. Harrelson spent Wednesday in Cherryville with relatives.—Mrs. E. L. Fronberger and sister, Mrs. Nell Mason, were at the county seat Wednesday on business.—Rev. R. R. Caldwell is in Charlotte today on business.—This is trying weather on the pork killers. We understand that some are losing their pork on account of the warm weather.

AT GOLDSBORO NEXT.

Baptist State Convention Selects Place for Next Meeting—Report of Statistical Secretary, E. L. Middleton, Shows That There Are 1,950 Churches and 230,322 Members in North Carolina—Growth Has Been Wonderful.

Winston-Salem dispatch, 7th. Goldsboro was selected at the evening session of the convention as the place for holding the session of 1912. Rev. L. E. Davis, of Winston, was named as preacher of the introductory sermon and Rev. J. C. Turner, of Greensboro, as alternate.

Statistical Secretary E. L. Middleton has in hand detail reports from 54 of the 62 associations that constitute the State convention with estimates from the missing associations based on last year's reports. The year proves to have been one of the most successful in the history of the denomination comprising 1,950 ministers and 1,700 superintendents of Sunday schools. There are 1,950 churches and 230,322 members, a gain of 45 in number of churches and 9,500 in the membership.

There have been 12,950 baptisms reported already and there were really not less than 13,500 exceeding by 500 and more the highest record of any previous year. In the Sunday school work the denomination has advanced from 1,809 schools with an enrollment of 166,436 shown for last year, to 1,851 schools this year and 173,603 pupils, with numbers of schools yet to be heard from.

More than 100 new Sunday schools have been organized through Secretary Middleton's office, with a net gain, however, of only 40 in the total schools. There were 30 fewer branch schools reported this year than last, numbers of omissions being due to oversight it is believed. There are upwards of 500 Sunday schools in the State that have larger memberships than the churches that control them, and if all could be brought to this ratio the enrollment could advance by upwards of 60,000.

Secretary Middleton says this is an ideal new record before the general Sunday school workers. The financial side of the report shows upwards of \$150,000 raised during the year for missions, orphanage and ministerial relief, the showing for the year being the best in the history of the denomination.

"Little Joe" Brown "Comes Back."

The Democratic gubernatorial primary in Georgia Thursday to select a successor to Hon. Hoke Smith, who resigned as Governor to become United States Senator, resulted in a sweeping victory for ex-Gov. Joe Brown, who defeated two other candidates. Brown served one term and was defeated for renomination by Smith.

BELMONT MAN KILLED

Mr. Walter Neagle Comes in Contact With Live Wire Carrying 2300 Volts—Never Regained Consciousness but Lived About Twenty Hours—Belmont School Closed Till After Holidays on Account of Scarlet Fever.

Correspondence of The Gazette. BELMONT, Dec. 14.—The most serious, and practically the first accident that has occurred in the history of the Majestic Manufacturing Company, happened this morning at 11 o'clock when Mr. Walter Neagle, an employe of the mill, came in contact with a live wire and received the whole force of 2300 volts of electricity. At 4 o'clock this afternoon he had just begun to regain consciousness and some hope, though slight, is held out for his recovery. Mr. Neagle, in company with several other men, was engaged in the installation of a motor which was up on a platform or scaffolding 12 feet above the floor. In some way several wires just at the point of contact with the motor had been left uninsulated. Mr. Neagle and a Mr. Hurley were testing the motor preparatory to the final placing into position when the former, leaning over the motor to tighten a bolt, touched one of the live wires with his shoulder. The entire current of 2300 volts knocked his body against the motor and he was severely burned about the neck and ears. Several employes standing near rushed to the switchboard close at hand and cut off the current. His body thus released fell to the floor a distance of 15 feet. His head struck some of the mill machinery, a severe rash being cut in his head and his skull probably fractured. Drs. Orr and Taylor were immediately summoned and stayed with the injured man the entire afternoon. Examination showed several severe burns on different parts of the body. Small hopes are entertained for his recovery.

The distressing accident is deeply deplored, and by no one more than the mill officials. Mr. Neagle is married and has one child. He is a brother of Messrs. Andrew and Will Neagle, of this place, and of Mrs. Justus Armstrong, of the South Point section.

Owing to the appearance of two cases of scarlet fever in town the school authorities have suspended the work of the school from the first to the fourth grades, taught by Misses Ethel Stowe, Mary Hall and Melabel Crawford. The sick children are Virginia Armstrong, the eight-year-old daughter of Mr. J. W. Armstrong, and a three-year-old son of Policeman J. A. Wagstaff. Both cases are of a mild form and it is believed that with the proper precautionary and quarantine measures, the epidemic, if it can be so termed, can be suppressed within the next week. The suspension of the primary grades will be in force until after the Christmas holidays, the beginning of which was only a little more than a week distant. This enforced holiday will doubtless be enjoyed by both teachers and pupils.

Following the action taken yesterday by the school authorities in closing the primary department of the Belmont public school, the board met this (Friday) morning and ordered all departments of the school closed till after the holidays. There are only two or three cases or fever but this precaution was deemed advisable.

Belmont citizens generally were interested in the statements of the several county banks carried in Tuesday's Gazette. As shown by the cashier's statement the Bank of Belmont ranked third in the county being outclassed only by the First National and Citizens National, of Gastonia. Not only as regards better banking facilities but from a standpoint of general progressiveness and amount of business transacted, does Belmont claim the distinction of being the second town in the county.

MR. NEAGLE DEAD.

A telephone message to The Gazette at noon today from its Belmont correspondent states that Mr. Neagle died at 7 o'clock this morning without ever having regained consciousness. That he lived as long as he did after being subjected to a current of 2300 volts of electricity is a matter which causes much wonder. Funeral arrangements have not been completed yet but burial will take place in the cemetery there sometime tomorrow.

Surviving are his widow, who was a Miss Duncan, and one child; his mother, Mrs. M. A. Neagle, of Belmont; three sisters, Mrs. R. M. Gouger, of Jackson Springs; Mrs. Justus Armstrong, of South Point, and Miss Jane Neagle, of Gastonia; four brothers, Messrs. Andy and Will Neagle, of Belmont; Robert Neagle, of Tennessee, and Joe Neagle, of Texas.

Mr. Neagle's body was severely mutilated by the shock, his skull being fractured and several holes being burned through his body.

—Rev. S. B. Turrentine, presiding elder of the Shelby district, will preach at the Lowell Methodist church tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock and Sunday morning at 11. Quarterly conference will be held immediately following the morning service. Dr. Turrentine will also conduct a quarterly conference at West End church, Gastonia, on Saturday afternoon.

DASTARDLY MURDER DONE

Mr. John Dixon and His Wife, a Sister of Mr. D. A. Cline, of Gastonia, Brutally Murdered With an Axe at Home in Cleveland County Tuesday Night—Three Negroes Suspects in Jail—Coroner's Inquest to be Continued To-Day.

One of the most horrible and dastardly murders ever committed in the State was done some time Tuesday night in Cleveland county when Mr. John Dixon and his wife were clubbed to death at their home between Lawndale and Fallston by unknown men believed to have been negroes. Mr. Dixon was killed outright but his wife, left for dead by the murderers, lived a few hours and regained consciousness sufficiently to tell something about the horrible deed.

Mrs. Dixon was a sister of our townsman, Mr. D. A. Cline, of the Albion Grocery Company, who was summoned to Shelby early Wednesday morning and went immediately, making the trip through the country, accompanied by his wife and child. She was a niece of Mrs. W. J. Clifford and was known to quite a number of Gastonia people, having attended school at Linwood College and during her stay there visited in Gastonia frequently. Because of these facts much interest in the case has been shown by Gastonia people whose sympathies go out to the relatives of the unfortunate couple.

According to the information contained in press dispatches sent out yesterday from Shelby it seems that about midnight Tuesday night two men knocked at the door of Mr. Dixon's home. On responding to the call the men told Mr. Dixon that their horse was stuck in the ditch nearby and they wanted him to come and help them get him out. Dressing and taking a lantern Mr. Dixon went out. He was never seen alive again, his lifeless body, brutally mutilated with an axe, was discovered Wednesday morning in the barn lot near the house.

Having killed the husband the men evidently returned to the house and attacked Mrs. Dixon as she lay asleep in bed with her little year-old child. Thinking they had put an end to her life also they departed. Just after day light passersby heard groans within the house and an investigation revealed the facts as above given. Mrs. Dixon, it is stated, called two negro woodchoppers, so they testified, and told them that two men had committed the crime. She did not know where her husband was and inquired of them. One of the men went to Mr. Dixon's father, Mr. Thomas Dixon's house, a quarter of a mile away and gave the alarm. When neighbors arrived Mrs. Dixon was dead. The child was unharmed.

Early reports stated that the murder was perpetrated in order that the murderers might commit robbery as it was known that Mr. Dixon had sold his cotton the day before. Later reports, however, are to the effect that there were only \$40 in cash in the house and it was undisturbed.

Hack Ross and John Ross, two negroes, brothers, are suspected of the crime. They were arrested, together with Major Stroud, another negro, and placed in jail pending developments. Sentiment is strong against Hack Ross, who is said to have threatened to kill Dixon, and if the coroner's jury places the guilt on him at its sitting today there is strong probability of an attempt to lynch him. Hack Ross owed Mr. Dixon for a pig, the latter having a mortgage on it. The day before the crime Ross, unable to pay for the pig, brought it back though it is believed now this act of seeming honesty was but to cloak the awful contemplated crime. When arrested Hack Ross' overalls had some blood on them. Tracks in the neighborhood of the Dixon home, leading to Ross' cabin, exactly fitted his shoe. The evidence is apparently pretty strong against him. Then, too, his reputation is bad.

When questioned the negroes told a story about seeing two strange white men at the barn when they came by the house just after daylight. The officers, however, put very little credence in these stories.

The three negroes are confined in separate cells in the Cleveland county jail. Hack and John Ross are believed to be the perpetrators of the fiendish deed. Major Stroud bears a good reputation and the officers think he will tell the whole story or as much as he knows about it.

No crime has been committed in this section of the country in years, perhaps never before, which has stirred public sentiment so strongly against the criminals as has this one. Mr. and Mrs. Dixon belonged to prominent families and were among the best people in Cleveland county. They had a happy home. They were married about two years ago and were both young. Their tragic end calls forth expressions of the deepest sympathy and distress from thousands of hearts throughout all this section of country.

A Washington dispatch yesterday states that the Navy Department has exonerated Ensign R. S. Young, of Concord, of the charges preferred against him for deserting his post last summer. It will be recalled that Young overstaid leave of absence from his ship in Brooklyn navy yard and then mysteriously disappeared. After days and days of searching he was found by his father, and before the public knew of his having been found he was in a private sanitarium at Morganton for treatment for a mental trouble.

HELD FOR MURDER

Coroner's Jury Returns Verdict at Shelby—Four Negroes Held One or More of Whom Are Believed to Have Murdered Mr. and Mrs. Dixon—Governor Orders Special Term of Court.

A telephone message from Shelby to The Gazette at 2 o'clock this afternoon, just before going to press, brings the information that the Cleveland county coroner's jury which this morning resumed its investigation into the murder of Mr. and Mrs. John Dixon on Tuesday night, an account of which appears in another column on this page, returned a verdict shortly before noon to the effect that Mr. and Mrs. Dixon met death at the hands of one or more of four negroes, now in custody.

The negroes are Hack, John and Will Ross and Cull Mull. Will Ross and Mull were arrested last night of this morning. The coroner's jury, believing that some one or more of this crowd might be innocent, rendered an indefinite verdict and ordered all four of the men committed to jail to await trial.

Governor Kitchin today ordered a special term of Cleveland Superior Court to be held the first of January to try these men.

CITY COUNCIL MEETS.

Important Health Ordinance Passed—Matters of Routine Business Transacted.

The regular meeting of the city council was held in the city hall Tuesday night with all members present and Mayor T. L. Craig presiding. The treasurer was instructed to refund \$2 poll tax to W. W. Clary on account of physical infirmities.

The matter of placing lights on North Oakland street and Walnut avenue and on East Main between Broad and Avon streets was referred to the Water and Light committee with power to act.

Action on the petition for the placing of a fire hydrant on Columbia street at Second avenue was deferred for the present.

The street committee was instructed to establish the best grade possible on South York street from Franklin to Third avenue and proceed to complete the work at once.

The mayor and city attorney were instructed to draft a suitable letter of recommendation of the North Carolina Interurban Railway Company. Bills to the amount of \$3,751.74 were referred to the finance committee for payment.

The street committee was instructed to reset all curbing disturbed by the work now being done at the intersection of York street and Franklin avenue.

The report of the city physician for the month of November was read and accepted.

An important health ordinance was passed requiring the occupants of a house in which a death from tuberculosis occurred to have the room or rooms used by the deceased persons thoroughly fumigated under the supervision of the city health authorities and proper certificate of such fumigation filed with the city clerk or health officer.

The High Cost of Dying.

A contributor to the December Woman's Home Companion makes the following interesting comment: "It has occurred to me, while reading articles on the high cost of living that apparently no one has thought of the terribly high cost of dying."

"Does it seem fair that a casket should cost so many times its intrinsic value, because of the pressing need? Should livermen charge double or treble for conveyances at such a time? Can you not undertake to show the actual robbery that exists and thrives on the forced purchasing that often leaves a family almost bankrupt? That, too, at a time perhaps when its support is taken away. I hope that you may be able to start a crusade against such rank injustice. This will strike a responsive chord in the breasts of those who have to settle funeral bills in towns. In fact the man of small means can hardly afford to die in town if he is to be buried in respectable style."

—Sheriff J. D. B. McLean is in Lowell today on his round as tax collector. He will be in his office here tomorrow, at McAdenville Monday, Belmont Tuesday and at Parham's store near Crowders Creek Wednesday. After that date he will be in his office at the court house for the remainder of the month.

—The Gazette learns upon good authority that a number of cases of typhoid fever in various parts of the town have been directly traced to infected milk coming from a dairy being conducted by two negro families living on the town farm south of town. We are informed that there is a case of typhoid in each of these families, and that all vessels in which milk is carried are washed in water from a well situated only about 25 feet from the sewerage outlet, making about as unsanitary and dangerous a situation as could be imagined. The public health would seem to demand that some steps be taken by the city or county health authorities looking toward an improvement in this particular instance.

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