

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

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GASTONIA, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 5, 1917.

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

LEGISLATURE CONVENES

MADE RECORD SPEED ON FIRST DAY

Hundred and Forty Seven Bills Fall Into House Hopper on Opening Day—Senate Was Not So Busy—D. P. Dellinger, of Gaston, Elected Principal Clerk of House—Gaston Bills Introduced.

Forty minutes after Speaker Murphy called the House of Representatives to order at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon 147 bills had found their way into the legislative hopper. Bills commenced to roll in immediately after the call for order came. In an early afternoon session the organization of the House was completed within two hours after it was called to order, at noon. Though this is perhaps a record-breaker for speed many members seemed to chafe at their bits in impatient desire to get their local bills through before they were buried by matters of greater importance to the State.

Under the direction of Lieutenant Governor Doughton the Senate quickly elected its working force and was ready for business.

The principal matter was a resolution to provide for a committee of 10 to scrutinize all local bills during the rush period before the time limit expires. About 40 bills were introduced and committees named.

After election of all officers through roll call in the first session, it swung into a rapid stride as soon as Speaker Murphy's gavel rapped for order. As soon as the Speaker stated that the introduction of bills was in order more than a score of anxious members jumped to their feet and yelled for recognition. Some had arms literally filled with bills which they wanted put through before the bigger things begin to claim attention; few had less than three, many had more than half a dozen.

The Speaker was undisturbed. As speedily as he could he recognized offers. Pages scampered about as so many ants, shoving upon Reading Clerk Dellinger the great mass of matter so important to individuals. The bills were numbered, the titles read and hurriedly handed to clerks. In a few minutes their desks were swamped and it was known that the session was breaking all records for speed. Not until well toward midnight were the men in the principal clerk's office able to get the bills ready for committees to which they were assigned.

Organization of the House of Representatives was completed in a little more than two hours after it was called to order at 12:15 by Clerk Alexander Lassiter. Rev. Hight C. Moore invoked divine blessing upon the body through a most eloquent prayer in which he thanked God for the guidance that he hoped would be given the members.

Following the invocation representatives were asked to present their credentials and be sworn in. Associate Justice Hoke, of the Supreme Court, administered the oath of office. 120 members were present and sworn in.

In accordance with instructions of party caucuses Tuesday the names of Walter Murphy, of Rowan, and Ray McCrary, of Davidson, Democrat and Republican, respectively, were presented as candidates for Speaker of the House. Mr. Murphy was chosen, 99 to 21.

Mr. Murphy was nominated by Henry Page. His nomination was seconded by Gallatin Roberts. Mr. McCrary was nominated by George Pritchard. The nomination was seconded by Representatives Jackson and Haymore.

Following his election Mr. Murphy was ushered to the chair by Representatives Grier, Page and Pegram. He was sworn in by Justice Hoke, who used for the purpose a Bible presented to the Speaker by admiring friends through Clerk Lassiter.

D. P. Dellinger, principal clerk; Otis B. Shell, engrossing clerk; Alexander Lassiter, reading clerk; J. H. Mooring, sergeant-at-arms, and E. J. Jenkins, assistant sergeant-at-arms, all Democrats, were chosen without opposition. They, too, were sworn in by Justice Hoke. With the administration of the oath to them the organization of the House was complete. Resolutions were in order.

Representative Pegram introduced two resolutions: One to notify the Senate that the House was organized and ready for business; the other, with the Senate's concurrence, to notify the Governor that the General Assembly would be ready to receive his message at noon Thursday. The latter resolution became House bill No. 1.

Doughton, Grier, Stubbs, and Price were appointed committee on rules. Chairman Doughton offered a resolution that the rules of the House of 1915 be accepted. The resolution carried.

Emergency committees were appointed as follows: Number one, Grant, of New Hanover; Pharr, Doughton, Pritchard; Number two, Pegram, Grier, Daniels, Clark, of Pitt, Haymore; Number three, Winston, Roberts, of Buncombe, Ward, Gardner, McBoe.

Representative Puett introduced a bill authorizing the city of Gastonia to issue bonds for constructing streets.

Senator Ray introduced in the Senate a bill to authorize the Gaston county commissioners to issue bonds to construct bridges and take care of floating debt.

The Senate was called to order by Lieutenant-Governor E. L. Daugh-

BELMONT BUDGET

General Assembly Will be Asked to Repeal the Law of 1915 Providing for Change of Gaston-Cleveland County Line—Mass Meeting Will be Held Next Friday—A Search Fails to Locate the Poll Book Used in This Election.

With the bad weather of the past two or three days, the approaches to the toll bridge at Sloan's Ferry were fast becoming impassable. Today, however, a gang of men has been laying a plank causeway over the muddy stretches and covering this with a thin layer of sand, the whole resulting in an admirable track.

Owing to a delay in the shipment of the furnace for the heating system, the installation of which will take a week or longer, the new school building will not be ready for occupancy for another week or ten days. School will re-open for the spring term Monday, January 8.

Mr. A. J. Rankin, of this place, one of the representatives in the Lower House of the General Assembly, from Gaston county, left a few days ago to occupy his seat. A bill to be introduced by him will authorize a bond election by the town of Belmont for sewerage and water works.

With the close of the holidays the boys and girls home from college have returned to their respective schools as follows: Misses Alice and Annie Hall, Mary Gaston, Mamie Leeper, Clara Armstrong and Ruth Lineberger to the State Normal at Greensboro, Elizabeth Lineberger to Queens, Charlotte, Elsie Johnston and Helen West to Flora McDonald College, Red Springs, Bertie Stowe to Peace Institute, Raleigh, and Messrs. Frank, Davidson and Walter Hall to Davidson, Ned Leeper and Falls Garrison to A. & M., Price Lineberger to Smithdeal's, Richmond, and Ray Armstrong to the University.

Out-of-town teachers who will arrive within the next few days are Misses Durham, Watt, Ward, Rankin, Teague and Hogan.

Stock-taking and restoration to normal conditions have been the general order the past week with local merchants and business men. Despite the high cost of living the past year has been a good one with local merchants. Cash sales for the last two weeks of December were far in excess of those of any previous holiday trade, say local dealers.

Master Royall Hand while out hunting during the holidays had the misfortune to lose one of the toes on his right foot. He was standing with the gun resting on his foot and in some way it was discharged, the load tearing off his big toe. He was uninjured otherwise.

The Charlotte high school boys' basketball team will be the guests of the local quintet in the first game of the New Year Saturday, the 13th. Other games with Kings Mountain, Cherryville, Winston-Salem are to follow in succession.

Messrs. R. L. Stowe and W. B. Puett are pushing the work on their new residences. These two houses, representing an outlay of several thousand dollars each, will be among the handsomest and most modernly designed in the county.

Pauline Frederick Ideal Saturday.

AN INCOME TAX.

On Every Man Who Earns as Much as \$20 a Week Likely Will Produce Large Revenue to Carry Out Preparedness Program.

Greensboro News, 4th.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The Daily News correspondent learns today from a very reliable source that the administration will ask Congress to pass a law amending the income tax law, so that it will include every person in the United States whose salary, or income is \$1,000 or more a year. It is figured that by adopting this plan sufficient revenue can be raised to pay for the large number of battleships and cruisers, so urgently advocated by Secretary of the Navy Daniels and at the same time pay for the additional 160,000 troops to be included in the American army.

As Representatives Page, Kitchen, Webb and others said when the "preparedness" publicity propaganda, which cost millions of dollars, was at its height, the large increases would come back to haunt those who advocated them when there was little if any need for such appropriations. Now the government must meet a deficit of \$300,000,000 and the small salaried man, the farmer and others must bear the burden.

And this, too, in the face of the fact that about the only people who have benefited by these large appropriations have been the steel trust and other large interests who came to Washington and urged the appropriations which are now embarrassing

tride.

Senators were sworn in, several at the time, the oath being administered by Chief Justice Walter Clark. The presiding officer declaring that the Senate was ready for business, Senator J. E. Long nominated Senator F. C. Harding for president pro tem. of the Senate. As a formality Senator Jonas, Republican, nominated Senator Ezra Parker. Harding was elected by a vote of 40 to 5.

R. O. Self was elected principal clerk.

Isaac W. Hughes was elected engrossing clerk.

C. C. Broughton was elected reading clerk.

W. D. Gaster was elected sergeant-at-arms.

John W. Alexander was elected assistant sergeant-at-arms.

Robert Lilly, colored, was smothered to death beneath a mass of cotton seed in the plant of the Buckeye Cotton Oil Company at Charlotte Wednesday.

President Wilson and the balance of his administration.

The proposed plan would take in the grocery clerk who gets \$20 a week; the railroad clerk; the railroad fireman and brakeman and in fact practically every man who is now barely earning a meager existence.

There is going to be an awful howl from the people "back home" when the attempt is made to put through such a plan. But the money must be raised. The big interests who urged Secretary Daniels and Secretary of War Garrison to appropriate such large sums will of course pay their small part. They will not miss the amount, but the farmer and the grocery clerk will miss the amount and it will make a great deal of difference in his cost of living.

The present plan, according to the Daily News informant, is to place an income tax of 1 per cent for each and every man who draws a salary of from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the first year and then if additional funds are needed the proceeding automatically goes to 2 per cent or even more if it appears that such an amount is necessary.

The fellow drawing more than \$1,500 will be taxed in proportion to what he receives. The present rate on income exempts all married men from \$4,000 or less and single men from \$3,000 or less. The proposed plan, it is said, will reach practically every skilled workman in the country.

THIRTY PETITIONS OUT

General Assembly Will be Asked to Repeal the Law of 1915 Providing for Change of Gaston-Cleveland County Line—Mass Meeting Will be Held Next Friday—A Search Fails to Locate the Poll Book Used in This Election.

Interest in the probable outcome of the civil suit that is now pending between Gaston and Cleveland counties relative to the 1915 county boundary line election continues to grow. The latest action taken in the case was that made by the board of commissioners of Gaston county at Monday's session calling for a special meeting of the board for Friday, January 12th. At this meeting a general discussion of the merits of the case and Gaston county's part in the suit will be gone into. The citizenship of Gaston county is invited to this meeting in order that the sentiment of each locality may be ascertained.

Petitions are now being circulated in every part of Gaston county and will be presented to the commissioners at their special meeting next Friday asking the General Assembly to repeal the law of 1915 which provided for the change of the county line. It is learned that there will be fully 2,000 signers to the thirty-odd petitions that are now being circulated. The petitions read as follows:

We, the undersigned citizens, tax payers and voters of Gaston county, North Carolina, do respectfully petition the General Assembly now in session and the senators and members of the Lower House representing Cleveland and Gaston counties to repeal Chapter 293 of the Public Laws of 1915 providing for the election and change of the line between Cleveland and Gaston counties, and restore the two counties to their former status upon such terms as to expense incurred in roads since the election as may be just and right, upon the grounds that we are reliably informed that there were grave irregularities in such election, and without making any specific charges against any individual or individuals, we do not think such election was fairly and legally conducted.

Attorney N. F. McMillan, who is employed as counselor by Gaston county in the suit, returned to the city the first of the week from Shelby and Kings Mountain where he had been in the interest of the case. When seen yesterday morning he stated that he had just received six additional affidavits charging that fraud occurred in the election. On being asked for something definite as to the truthfulness of the report that the poll-book had disappeared, he said:

"There is no question about the fact that there is some suspicion in the minds of the people of Gaston county as to why the registration book of the county line election was sent to the clerk of the court, at Shelby, since October 7th, last year, while the poll book is missing.

"It is very essential that this poll book should be produced as there is some question as to the qualifications of some of the names on that book, and it should certainly be open to public inspection in order to satisfy everybody.

"A diligent search has been made for the book by myself and others and by the clerk of the court of Cleveland county, at Shelby, but it has not as yet been found. An explanation from the registrar and those in whose custody the book is supposed to be is anxiously awaited."

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GASTONIA AND GASTON ARE SUING HEPTASOPHS

LATE EVENTS IN TOWN AND COUNTY

Born

To Mr. and Mrs. George McKee, Wednesday, January 3, 1917, a daughter.

Dr. Patterson to Preach.

Rev. Dr. R. S. Patterson, field secretary of the Lutheran board of home missions will fill the pulpit of the Lutheran church here Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. He will preach at Bessemer City at 7 p. m. **Gaston Medical Society Met.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Gaston County Medical Society was held in the city hall Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Nothing but routine business was transacted at the meeting.

Farmers Union Meeting.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Gaston County Farmers Union will be held at Dallas on the second Saturday in January, the 13th, at 10 a. m. All locals are urged to send delegates. Mr. W. B. Gibson, of Statesville, State business agent for fertilizers, has been invited to be present and address the meeting.

Has Fox Horn a Century Old.

Mr. W. C. Abernethy, of this city, has just received from Mr. Sid Underwood, of Mecklenburg county, a large fox horn which was the property of his father, Dr. James Abernethy, more than 35 years ago. The horn itself is over 100 years old but is still in fine shape, and may be used for many more years.

New Bank Will Open Tomorrow.

Beginning tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock Gastonia's Morris Plan Bank will be opened for business with offices in the Citizens National Bank building. Owing to the heavy rush during the Christmas holidays the bank was not started on January 1st as previously announced. Officers of the new institution are: President, C. B. Armstrong; vice-president, A. G. Myers; secretary-treasurer, W. H. Adams.

Office in Realty Building.

Mr. H. C. Dwelle, of Lexington, who represents J. D. Hightower, of Greensboro, a certified public accountant, arrived in the city Wednesday and has already opened an office on the second floor of the Realty building where he will be temporarily located until the new First National Bank building is completed, when permanent offices will be secured. Mr. Dwelle is an expert accountant and has done work for a number of large manufacturing enterprises in North Carolina.

Vital Statistics.

During the year ended December 31, 1916, there were 538 births in Gastonia township. Of this number 297 were in Gastonia and 141 outside of the city limits. There were 245 deaths in the township. Of this number 191 were inside the city and 54 outside. The statistics for the year for the entire county are not yet available but will be published as soon as the records have been filed at the court house.

The records of births and deaths during December show the following figures: Gastonia township, outside of this city, white, births four, deaths one; colored, births four, deaths three; Gastonia, white, births 27, deaths 16; colored, births six, deaths 5. Total births 41, deaths 20.

December's business at the local postoffice was the largest for any month in the history of the town. The total receipts were \$2,400.55 against \$1,779.55 for December, 1915, an increase for the month of \$620.98. For the quarter ending December 31st the receipts were \$6,420.21 as against \$5,153.39 for the corresponding quarter in 1915, an increase of \$1,266.82. Postmaster Rankin says there was a large increase in December in the parcel post and special delivery business. The extra holiday business was handled with less trouble than ever before, due largely to the fact that the public mailed packages early and were more careful than usual in properly wrapping and addressing them.

An Unusual Event.

Several Gastonia Masons will go to Raleigh to attend a communication extraordinary of Hiram Lodge, No. 40 on Monday January 15th. The purpose of this communication is to close the communication of that lodge which was in session on the evening of April 17, 1865, and which adjourned unceremoniously without being closed in due form. The lodge was in session when the news reached Raleigh of the assassination of President Lincoln. Kilpatrick's division of Sherman's army occupied Raleigh. There was great excitement and the immediate destruction of the city was threatened. An officer of a Maine regiment, who was a Mason, went to the Masonic hall, called Worshipful Master John Nichols out and told him to close the lodge and send the members home as any kind of a meeting was likely to inflame the soldiers. Nichols, in the excitement of the occasion, failed to close the lodge but sent the members home instantly. Now that communication is to be closed and a large number of Masons from all over the State are expected to attend.

SEEKING TO RECOVER ON INSURANCE

LATE EVENTS IN TOWN AND COUNTY

Twenty-Four Gastonia Members Have Brought Suit Against Improved Order Heptasophis in an Effort to Recover Amounts Paid With Interest—Premiums Have Been Increased, They Claim—Suit is Similar to the Williams Case at Newton.

Twenty-four citizens of Gastonia have this week instituted suit against the Supreme Conclave, Improved Order of Heptasophis, a secret order having as its foundation an insurance feature, seeking to recover the amounts they have paid into the organization in premiums with interest.

Five of these suits have been entered in Superior Court by as many of the older members who have been in the order for a long number of years, their claims amounting in some instances to more than \$500. Each one of these five men have claims which amount to more than \$200. They are: Messrs. C. C. Cornwell, G. A. Jenkins, J. P. Culp, John S. Jenkins, A. R. Anders.

There are 19 other cases for amounts of \$200 and under which have been instituted in the magistrate's court. Practically all of these suits were brought before Squire W. M. Adams, who refused to reveal their names to a Gazette representative today saying that the cases would not be tried until the first of next week and that he was afraid that the plaintiffs would object to their names being published at this time.

All of the suits started are similar to those of Mr. S. E. Hoey's of Shelby, an account of which is carried on page six of today's Gazette, and Mr. F. M. Williams, of Newton, who has already been awarded a verdict by the Supreme Court.

These men joined the order and took out insurance policies when the premiums were less than one dollar per month, but the premiums have increased until the premiums have been doubled and in some cases trebled, amounting now in many cases to more than \$3 per month. The facts in the Williams case are as follows:

The decision of the Supreme Court affirming the judgment of the Catawba Superior Court in the case of Mr. F. M. Williams vs. the Improved Order of Heptasophis, whereby Mr. Williams recovers something more than \$1,000, is of interest to former members of that fraternal insurance order in North Carolina. Mr. Williams paid his monthly premiums on a \$2,000 policy for 17 years, until the management of the Heptasophis put all the old members into an insurance class to themselves, forcing them in effect to insure themselves, denying them any advantages and benefits accruing from new members of the order and increasing the monthly payments. In Mr. Williams' case, from about \$3.80 a month on \$2,000 to nearly \$9 a month. Mr. Williams quit and brought suit for the amount of the premiums paid in, about \$700, and interest.

It is of interest to the members of the Heptasophis in Gastonia and Gaston county and it is very likely that other suits will be started within a short time.

Pauline Frederick Ideal Saturday.

CLOSED GOOD YEAR.

Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Gastonia Mutual Building & Loan Association Held Yesterday—Report of Secretary Shows Excellent Record for the Association—Directors and Officers Selected.

The annual meeting of the Gastonia Mutual Building & Loan Association which was held at the city hall yesterday afternoon, brought to a close the thirteenth year's history of the institution. The report of the secretary, Mr. E. G. McLurd, showed that 1916 had been the most successful year of the association. The earnings were greater, there being more than twice as many shares sold during 1916 than in any previous year. This report showed that the time for making loans during the year was from seven to 10 months from date of application.

Mr. S. A. Robinson acted as chairman of the meeting with Mr. J. M. Holland, Sec. There were sold during the year 1,933 shares in the two series which were opened. Seven hundred and forty-four shares were matured during the year. On January first there were 4,814 shares in force. The total profits during the year amounted to \$19,924.76 while the profits paid out to stockholders was \$7,354.75. Total assets of the association are \$182,156.76.

During the past year loans amounting to \$66,113 were made by the association to its members. The actual cost necessary to mature the stock amounted to \$83.50 all of which matured in 334 weeks.

An advance sale of 400 shares has been made on the new series. The opening date of the new series will be tomorrow, January 6th.

Directors for the association were elected as follows: Messrs. S. A. Robinson, B. T. Morris, E. N. Hann, A. J. Kirby, C. M. Crowder, J. White, J. M. Holland, V. E. Long, J. L. Price, J. S. Boyce, H. B. Moore, E. G. McLurd, Miss Georgia Connelly.

The directors chosen elected the following officers: President, S. A. Robinson; vice-presidents, B. T. Morris and V. E. Long; secretary-treasurer, E. G. McLurd; attorneys, J. W. Timberlake and P. W. Garland.

IN SOCIAL CIRCLES

LATEST EVENTS IN WOMAN'S WORLD

FRIENDLY MATRONS WITH MRS. SEPAK.

The Friendly Matrons Club held its regular meeting Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock with Mrs. J. H. Separk at her home on Second avenue. Only Club members were present. Refreshments were served in two courses, a salad and an ice course.

DINNEE FOR ELDERLY.

At the manse on South Marietta street this evening Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Henderlite will entertain the members of the session of the First Presbyterian church at a 6 o'clock dinner. Their guests will be Messrs. J. A. Hunter, B. G. Bradley, J. F. Thomson, G. W. Ragan, A. M. Smyre, J. H. Kennedy, J. F. Jackson, J. B. Baber, H. Kutter, J. E. Page, Judge A. C. Jones, and Dr. C. E. Adams.

WELCH-BOYCE ANNOUNCEMENT.

Mrs. R. G. Rankin was hostess at her attractive home south of the city, Wednesday afternoon at a beautifully appointed New Years party given ostensibly as a regular meeting of the Original Thirteen Club, but which proved to be of deeper interest than the usual club meeting. After the guests had assembled they were invited to the punch room and, as punch was being served, Mrs. Rankin announced that toasts to the New Year were in order. Mrs. J. H. Kennedy was called upon and responded with a toast to original verse, which as she proceeded resolved an announcement of the approaching marriage of Miss Lucy Boyce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Boyce, and sister of the hostess, and Mr. C. D. Welch, of Mayworth. This interesting event is to occur in the spring. Mrs. W. L. Wetzel then proposed a toast to the bride-elect and Mrs. Colt Robinson, of Lowell, in charming verse, toasted the long-suffering and much-neglected groom. The toasts created much interest and pleasurable excitement among the guests and Miss Boyce was the recipient of many good wishes. The game of cubical hearts was played during the afternoon and at the conclusion of the game a delicious two-course luncheon was served. Beautiful white and yellow narcissus and blooming pot plants added to the charm of the attractive rooms. Miss Boyce, the honoree, wore a beautiful gown, a Lady Duff Gordon model in navy blue charmeuse and georgette crepe.

FIFTY-FOUR LYNCHED.

Record for 1916 Shows Decrease of 13 Over Previous Year—Fifty Negroes, Four Whites.

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 1.—Fifty-four persons were lynched in the United States during 1916, according to records of Tuskegee institute here made public today. Fifty of the victims were negroes and four white persons and included in the record are three negro women. Sixty-seven persons were lynched in 1915, thirteen of whom were white men.

In a statement presenting the report Robert R. Moton, president of the institute said:

"Fourteen or more than one-fourth of the total lynchings occurred in the state of Georgia. Of those put to death, 42, or 77 per cent of the total, were charged with offenses other than assault. The charges for which whites were lynched were murder, three; suspected of cutting a woman, one, (this a Mexican). The charges for which negroes were put to death were: Attempted assault, nine; killing officers of the law, ten; murder, seven; hog stealing and assisting another person to escape, six; wounding officers of the law, four; assault, three; insult, two. For each of the following offenses one person was put to death: Slapping boy, robbing store; brushing against girl on the street; assisting his son, accused of assault, to escape; entering a house for robbery or some other purpose; defending her son, who in defense of his mother killed a man; fatally wounding a man with whom he had quarreled; speaking against mob in act of putting a man to death; attacking a man and wife with club.

"Lynchings occurred in the following States: Alabama, one; Arkansas, four; Florida, eight; Georgia, fourteen; Kansas, one; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, two; Mississippi, one; Missouri, one; North Carolina, two; Tennessee, three; Texas, nine."

Held Watch Night Service.

A watch night service was held Sunday night at Main Street Methodist church, beginning at 10:30 o'clock and continuing through midnight. This was in accordance with a suggestion from the college of bishops of the Southern Methodist Church who asked that every Southern Methodist church hold such services and pray especially for the movement looking toward the unification of the Methodist churches in the United States. Talks were made by Revs. H. H. Jordan, O. J. Jones and E. P. Stabler.

Concord is to have more paved streets. Upon the completion of paying now being done another mile and a half will be laid.