

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

VOL. XXXVIII. NO. 4.

GASTONIA, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 12, 1917.

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

MR. SEPAK PRESIDENT HEADS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. A. G. Myers Chosen First Vice-President and Mr. S. A. Robinson Second Vice-President—Secretary Roberts and Treasurer Holland Submit Annual Reports—Changes Made in By-Laws—Seven Directors to be Chosen at Adjourned Meeting on 25th—Attendance Was Small.

There was a bare quorum, 25 members, present last night for the annual meeting of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce. The night was bitterly cold, which perhaps accounted, to some extent at least, for the smallness of the crowd. The meeting was held at the court house, which was almost minus heat, and 8 o'clock was the time set. It was 8:50 when Mr. J. Lee Robinson, first vice-president, called the meeting to order. President T. L. Craig was out of the city, being in Raleigh to attend the inauguration of Governor Bickett.

What the meeting lacked in numbers, however, it made up in interest manifested by those present. Reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting was dispensed with and the first thing on the program was the submission by Secretary C. W. Roberts of his annual report. This document is rather lengthy and space forbids our giving it in full today. The activities of the various departments during the past twelve months were reviewed. It was stated that the industrial committee had considered during the year 48 propositions and still had a number under consideration. The advertising committee had secured free advertising for the city which, if paid for, would have cost from \$15,000 to \$25,000. It had also saved the merchants of the city several thousand dollars by censoring advertising schemes. The civic committee had fostered the first Halloween party and the first Municipal Christmas tree, both of which were successes. Promises had been secured of sanitary drinking fountains at the court house and a ladies' rest room, neither of which has as yet materialized. The report showed that each of the several committees had been active during the year. The secretary's report was accepted.

Among the recommendations made in the secretary's report was that new and larger offices be secured for the chamber on Main avenue. The annual report of the treasurer, Mr. J. M. Holland, was next submitted and adopted. It was as follows:

RECEIPTS	
Cash in banks Dec. 31, 1915	\$ 466.92
Membership collections	1,635.44
Notes, money borrowed	700.00
	\$2,802.36
DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries	\$1,969.98
Petty cash	297.97
Sundry expenses	135.97
Rents	240.00
Printing	112.43
Bonds	10.00
Discount on notes	6.75
	\$2,771.80
Balance	30.56
	\$2,802.36

Following the submission and acceptance of these reports officers for the ensuing year were chosen as follows: President, J. H. Separk; first vice-president, A. G. Myers; second vice-president, S. A. Robinson. All three of these gentlemen have been closely identified with the chamber since its inception and are not only thoroughly familiar with its workings but are enthusiastic over its possibilities. Each of the new officers made brief talks, the burden of which was an appeal to the members to lead their hearty support, both moral and financial, to the chamber during the coming year. In no other way can it be in any measure a success, they said.

Proposed changes in the by-laws precipitated a lengthy argument, not as to the merits of the proposed changes themselves but as to the legality of putting the changes into immediate operation. The proposed changes had been previously drawn up and sanctioned by the board of directors and were adopted last night. The principal changes are as follows: To allow any firm or corporation to take as many memberships in the chamber as desired at \$12 each per year and designate a representative for each membership; providing for the appointment by the president and two vice-presidents of a nominating committee consisting of five members, which committee shall, two weeks prior to the annual meeting on the second Thursday night in January, nominate officers for the ensuing year and furnish a list of said nominees to the members of the chamber two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Under a suspension of the by-laws, this last named provision is now in effect and the nominating committee will be named in a day or two. This committee will nominate seven directors whose names will be given to the members within a week. At an adjourned meeting, to be held Thursday night, January 25th, at 8 o'clock in the court house, these nominees will be voted on.

Another change in the by-laws is in the section providing for a board of directors. It reduces the number from eleven to seven.

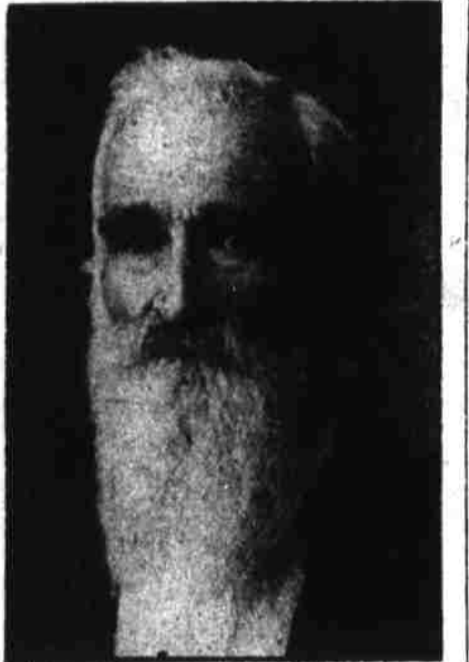
Secretary Roberts, in mailing out notices of last night's meeting, enclosed to each member a card on

(Continued on page 4.)

MR. M. H. SHUFORD DEAD FORMER SHERIFF OF COUNTY PASSES

Well-Known and Highly Esteemed Citizen Succumbs to Long Illness—End Came This Morning—Funeral and Burial Tomorrow Afternoon—Served Valiantly in Confederate Army—Was Native of Gaston and Had Spent All of His Life Here—A Sketch.

About 10:30 o'clock this morning at his home on West Franklin avenue death came to ex-Sheriff Martin H. Shuford as the climax of a long period of declining health. Since last July he had been confined to his home and most of the time to his bed. For several months prior to that time he was in feeble health. His death was not unexpected as he had been in an unconscious condition since early yesterday and his physicians held out no hope for his recovery. The news of his passing brought sorrow to many hearts here and elsewhere.



Martin Hiram Shuford was a son of Joseph Shuford and was born June 2, 1829, near Crouse, Lincoln county. He was one of nine brothers, three of whom survive. They are Joseph, Jacob and William Shuford, all living in Texas. He also leaves three sisters, Mrs. Emanuel Patterson, of Kings Mountain, and Mrs. Moses Hines and Mrs. Alice Holliday, of Texas. Of these only Mrs. Patterson will be able to be here for the funeral.

Mr. Shuford enlisted about the first of April, 1861, in Company B, Twenty-third Regiment North Carolina Troops, of which George Seale, of Lincoln county, was captain. He went out with the company as a corporal and was soon promoted to orderly sergeant. On May 10th, 1862, this regiment was re-organized in the Chickahominy near Richmond, Va., and his brother, Sidney A. Shuford, was made captain and Martin H. Shuford was made first lieutenant. His brother, Sidney, was killed May 31, 1862, at the battle of Seven Pines. Two other brothers, William and Jacob, were also in the Confederate Service. Deceased was wounded and captured at the battle of Gettysburg on the first day of July, 1863, and was taken to the Federal prison on Johnson's Island where he was kept for 22 months.

On November 4, 1873, Mr. Shuford married Miss Frances Carpenter, of Polk county, who preceded him to the grave, having died in September, 1913. From that union the following children survive, namely: Mrs. Dr. R. M. Reid, Mrs. George W. Wilson, Miss Lowry Shuford, Mr. S. S. Shuford and Mr. Harry Shuford, of Gastonia, and Mr. J. O. Shuford, of Incolnton.

In 1888 he was elected sheriff of Gaston county. He held this position for three terms, or six years. At the expiration of his term of office he moved his family to Gastonia in January, 1895, and had resided here since. The only other public office he has held was that of chairman of the County Board of Pensions, which position he held at the time of his death.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at Main Street Methodist church, of which he had long been a member. The pastor, Rev. H. H. Jordan, will officiate, assisted by Rev. Dr. J. C. Galloway, pastor of the First Associate Reformed Presbyterian church. Interment will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Until his health began to decline a year or more ago Mr. Shuford, though advanced in years, was an unusually active man, retaining to a marked degree the possession of all his faculties. Having spent all of his life, except that period devoted to the Confederate service, in this county, he had a wide acquaintance and was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. He was a staunch citizen and his passing will bring sadness to many hearts.

Irene Fenwick Ideal Today.

Harry Thaw, who with two so-called body guards is under indictment in New York for an alleged attack on a 19-year-old boy Christmas, attempted to commit suicide in a house in Philadelphia yesterday by cutting his throat and wrists. Physicians say he will recover. The police were hunting for him.

FINE RECORDS SHOWN WAS PROSPEROUS YEAR IN ALL LINES

Both Local National Banks and the Gastonia Textile Plants Closed the Most Successful Year in Their History—First National Bank Paid a Special Cash Dividend of Fifty Per Cent in Addition to Usual Dividend—Meetings Held and Officers Named During the Week.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank, of this city, held in the offices of the company on Tuesday, January 9, there was paid, in addition to the usual ten per cent dividend, a special cash dividend of 50 per cent. All of the 1,500 shares of stock were represented.

The report of the officers of the bank reflected one of the most successful years in the history of the institution from the point of earnings and increase in volume of business, the deposits having increased during the year about 100 per cent. The sum of \$50,000 was added to the surplus account, increasing that fund to \$150,000 and leaving a balance in undivided profits of \$40,000. The capital stock of the institution is \$150,000 also.

Directors were elected as follows: L. L. Jenkins, J. Lee Robinson, R. R. Ray, T. L. Craig, J. O. White, J. K. Dixon, O. F. Mason, S. N. Boyce, L. F. Graves, S. M. Robinson, W. J. Clifford, D. H. Parker, S. A. Robinson, J. H. Separk, F. L. Smyre. The five last named were added to the board of directors for the first time Tuesday.

The following officers were elected: President, L. L. Jenkins; acting vice-president, J. Lee Robinson; vice-president, R. R. Ray; cashier, S. N. Boyce; assistant cashier, M. T. Wilson; teller, D. M. Robinson. Mr. T. L. Craig was elected chairman of the board of directors.

CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK

The year just ended was the best experienced by the Citizens National Bank in its history, according to the reports of the officers to the stockholders and directors at the annual meeting held Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock in the offices at the bank. In addition to paying the regular dividend of five per cent semi-annually for the year the bank passed a handsome sum to the surplus account. The deposits have been largely in excess of those for any previous year. At times during the year the deposits have been as high as a hundred per cent above previous high records and for the year the average increase has been between 40 and 50 per cent.

The stockholders re-elected the old directors, namely: Andrew E. Moore, H. M. Cleveland, W. T. Rankin, J. M. Sloan and A. G. Myers and added to the board D. E. Rhyne, of Incolnton, and C. B. Armstrong, of Gastonia. Mr. Rhyne is one of the principal stockholders in the Avon Mills and a large property owner in the county. The directors re-elected all of the old officers, namely: Andrew E. Moore, president; A. G. Myers, active vice-president; W. H. Adams, cashier; John A. Hunter, Jr., assistant cashier.

TRENTON MILLS

Nineteen sixteen was one of the best years in the history of the Trenton Cotton Mills, of this city, as it was with practically all of the mills in Gastonia and this section. This was shown by the reports of the president and treasurer to the stockholders and directors at their annual meeting Tuesday. During the year the regular five per cent semi-annual dividends were paid, these interest periods coming April first and October first. In addition to these an extra dividend was paid to stockholders on January first. All of the officers were re-elected. They are J. K. Dixon, president and treasurer; E. N. Pegram, secretary; L. L. Jenkins, vice-president; A. M. Dixon, superintendent. Also all of the directors were re-elected. They are L. L. Jenkins, H. P. Forbes, Frost Torrence, E. N. Lineberger and J. K. Dixon.

GRAY MANUFACTURING CO.

Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock the stockholders and directors of the Gray Manufacturing Company held their annual meetings at the mill offices. Reports from the officers showed that the mill had experienced a prosperous year. The mill has paid its usual semi-annual dividends of 5 per cent during 1916 and an extra dividend the first of January. Directors were chosen for the ensuing year as follows: L. L. Jenkins, T. L. Craig, J. H. Separk, J. L. Gray, J. W. Hastings, J. Lee Robinson and G. A. Gray. The last-named is an addition to the board, the other members having been re-elected. The directors elected officers for the ensuing year as follows: L. L. Jenkins, president; T. L. Craig and J. L. Gray, vice-presidents; J. H. Separk, secretary and treasurer. J. L. Gray is superintendent.

PARKDALE MILLS, INC.

Tuesday at noon the first annual meeting of the stockholders and directors of the Parkdale Mills, Inc., was held. Directors were chosen as follows: J. Lee Robinson, J. H. Separk, J. L. Gray, F. D. Barkley, L. L. Jenkins, J. H. Mayes and T. L. Craig. Officers chosen were as follows: J. Lee Robinson, president; J. L. Gray, vice-president; J. H. Separk, secretary and treasurer. This is a new mill and the machinery is being put into operation this week for the first time.

(Continued on page 4.)

BICKETT IS GOVERNOR INAUGURATED AT RALEIGH YESTERDAY

Ceremonies Were Simple—New Chief Executive Delivers a Notable Address—Outlines Needed Legislation Along Many Lines—Synopsis of His Inaugural Address.

Raleigh, Jan. 11.—With simple ceremonies Thomas Walter Bickett, of Louisburg, was inaugurated governor of North Carolina today, succeeding Locke Craig, of Asheville. Governor Bickett delivered his inaugural address immediately after the oath had been administered by Chief Justice Walter Clark.

Two recommendations of special interest were made by the Governor—One concerning the state prison and the other regarding the sale of patent and proprietary medicines in the state.

Governor Bickett declared that the state prison represents an inexcusable waste of a million dollars capital to transact the business, while this could be done better at a cost of \$100,000. He recommended that the state prison be converted into an asylum for the insane, and that the prisoners should be provided with comfortable and sanitary quarters.

With regard to patent medicines, the governor declared that he favored a law making it a felony for any one to sell or offer for sale, or advertise for sale in the state any proprietary medicine purporting to cure cancer, tuberculosis, paralysis, or any other disease for which state and national medical organizations say no cure has been found.

He advocated that all vendors of patent medicines file with the state board of health a statement showing the exact composition of such medicines and empower the board to forbid the sale of any that have not been found to possess curative value. A constitutional amendment which would exempt from taxation notes and mortgages given in good faith for the purchase of a home not to exceed \$3,000 and to run more than 20 years; also he advocated a law providing that the automobile licenses be disbursed throughout the state in building state highways.

The Governor discussed legislation regarding the manufacturing industries of the state. "I insist that legislation with respect to our mills and factories be made with reference to the living conditions in North Carolina, and not to reflect the conscience of New England and the theories of professional agitators," he declared. Further the governor wanted legislation that would have mills to put running water into the homes of operatives, where the water is within a reasonable distance, and also that the schools in important centers have a course of practical subjects taught.

Governor Bickett recommended that the state hospitals for the insane be put under one central management, as should the University and the A. & M. College. He also recommended the short ballot and rotation in office.

Mr. Thomas Walter Bickett arrived in Raleigh from his home in Louisburg this morning on a special train, accompanied by the special inaugural committee of the Legislature members of his family and a large number of friends. He was met at the Union station by committees representing the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, the Raleigh and Durham Rotary clubs and the Woman's club of this city.

From the Union station the Governor-elect at the head of a procession of automobiles and escorted by the cadets of the North Carolina Agricultural College and the college band, proceeded to the Governor's Mansion on North Blount street where he was joined by Governor Craig. The procession then proceeded to the Yarrowood hotel where a committee representing the civic organizations of the city, state officials and distinguished citizens from all parts of North Carolina welcomed the Governor and Governor-elect. From the hotel the party went to the City Auditorium where the inaugural ceremonies were held.

The Bible used in the ceremony was presented to Governor Bickett by J. Ed Pegram, of Durham, chairman of the inaugural joint committee of the Legislature. It bore the name of the new Governor, and the date of his inauguration embossed in gilt letters while on the fly-leaf were the names of Governor Craig, Chief Justice Walter Clark, state officers and the inaugural committee.

After the inauguration, Governor Bickett and Mrs. Bickett were escorted to the Governor's Mansion where a luncheon was served. Those present included in addition to the new executive, former Governor Craig and his staff, the justices of the Supreme Court, officers of the state, members of the inaugural committee and a number of invited guests.

A reception to which all North Carolinians are invited, will take place tonight at the Mansion from 8:30 until 11 o'clock, the inaugural ball taking place in the City Auditorium after the reception.

Irene Fenwick Ideal Today.

If things keep on going this way Maine will soon be the only State in the Union where a man is sure of getting a drink when he wants it.—Louisville Herald.

CITY COUNCIL MEETS ENDORSE WHOLE TIME HEALTH OFFICER

Board of Aldermen Transact Much Business at Regular Month; Meeting Tuesday Night—Prof. F. P. Hall, of Greater Gaston Association, Asks for Health Officer for County—Action Taken in Regard to City Meat and Milk Inspector.

The regular monthly meeting of the city council was held Tuesday night at the city hall. Mayor Pro Tem A. B. Elliott, presiding. Several petitions asking for street paving and sidewalks were heard and accepted; a report of the city engineer was read; the question of one or more underpasses to take the place of as many railroad crossings was discussed; the board went on record as favoring a whole-time health officer for Gastonia and Gaston county, and appointed a committee to frame an ordinance providing for a milk and meat inspector for the city.

Prof. F. P. Hall, of Belmont, president of the Greater Gaston Association came before the board, as chairman of an appointed committee of the association, asking that Gastonia co-operate with the county commissioners and the county school board and employ a whole-time health officer, whose duties would be to conduct an examination of the school children at the opening of the school term, to conduct an anti-typhoid fever campaign and to look after the health conditions of the entire county throughout the year. A salary of \$3,000 was recommended, to be paid equally by the city of Gastonia, the county school board and the county of Gaston. This plan as submitted had been worked out by the association and offered on its merits.

Among other facts that were brought out in the course of Mr. Hall's talk was that Gaston county has no health laws, the county board of health has not met since 1915, the people are unprotected for lack of health ordinances, and the situation of the county along this line is appalling. With the services of a whole-time health officer, such as many of the progressive counties over the State are employing, much of the typhoid and malaria fever would be stamped out and health conditions greatly improved. "Gaston county," declared Prof. Hall, "is ahead on schools and good roads but far behind in the matter of health, and there is much unnecessary suffering as a result of this condition. The situation is appalling and something should be done."

The sense of the board was that the cause was a vital one and worthy of careful consideration. They went on record as heartily in favor of a whole-time health officer. There was some difference of opinion as to the plan of securing one, however, inasmuch as the city had already contracted for a city and school physician, no action could be taken at the present. Dr. D. A. Garrison, who had come in for another purpose, was called upon and stated that the medical society of Gaston county was in favor of such an officer. He gave some facts and figures showing the need of a health officer.

Mr. John L. Beal next presented before the board the matter of a milk and meat inspector for the city, having been requested by Mayor Armstrong to bring the subject up at this time. Mr. Beal, when a member of the city council two years ago, advocated a milk and meat inspector for Gastonia, and had repeatedly asked for such an officer. Dr. D. A. Garrison, representing the civic committee of the Woman's Betterment Association, spoke on the dangers the people of this city were placed in at all times because of the impure milk supply.

A committee was appointed by the board to confer at a joint meeting of the civic committee to draft an ordinance putting restrictions on the milk dealers in the city and as to the advisability of securing an inspector for the city.

A report of Mr. Lloyd Mc. C. Ross, city engineer, was heard and accepted. This report showed that during the past year ending January 1, five and two tenths miles of asphalt paving and 10 and seven tenths miles of curb and gutters had been laid in the city. There is now ordered and under way two and five tenths miles of asphalt and four and two tenths miles of curb and gutters.

A request of Mr. T. C. Smith for water and lights on Harvey avenue was referred to the water and light committee.

The question of extending Fourth avenue from Chester to Loray was referred to the street committee.

The street committee was ordered to state the grade on Third avenue for the information of Mr. J. N. Hanna and others.

Chairman of the street committee was authorized to confer with attorney and take up with the Southern Railroad in regard to some protection on the railroad crossings in the city, especially on North York and Marietta streets.

Mr. J. L. Wallace, ex-Confederate veteran, was allowed to peddle without license.

An adjustment of the tax on the warehouse of the Farmers Union Warehouse Company of \$3,000 erroneously charged, was ordered. Chairman of the street committee was ordered to notify the C. & N.-W. Railroad that they must pave between the tracks at the street crossings within the city; that work must begin within 10 days or a penalty of

BIG FIRM CLOSES DOORS THOMSON COMPANY MAKES ASSIGNMENT

One of Gastonia's Largest Mercantile Establishments Closed Its Doors Yesterday as Result of Financial Difficulties—Liabilities Greatly in Excess of the Assets—Four Local Men Bear the Loss.

A great surprise was occasioned in Gastonia business circles yesterday when it was learned that the Thomson Mercantile Company had, the night before, made a voluntary assignment for the benefit of the creditors. Mr. A. C. Jones, of the local bar, has been made trustee. The assets of the corporation are \$12,803.27 while the liabilities total \$23,711.51. The capital stock of approximately \$12,000 is not incorporated in the liabilities.

Messrs. J. F. Thomson, J. R. Baber, J. C. McNeely and O. O. Baber are the stockholders of the concern.

The Thomson Mercantile Company was organized about 8 years ago and has been doing a general mercantile business in the Love building ever since. Prior to the organization of the company in 1908 Mr. J. F. Thomson had for several years successfully managed the Love Company, a general department store, at the same location. Mr. John F. Love, now of Charlotte, being the principal owner of the concern.

The entire stock of goods has been turned over to Mr. Jones, the trustee, and will be controlled by the creditors. There are no preferred creditors and there will be no exemptions, each creditor sharing the same in the disposal of the stock. No preferences will be allowed.

It is not known at this time when the stock of goods will be disposed of, but some action will be taken when the creditors have filed their claims. The stock will be sold at public auction, it is stated.

Irene Fenwick Ideal Today.

DIED SUDDENLY WEDNESDAY.

Mr. Oscar S. Dixon, Well-Known Farmer of Gaston, Dropped Dead in Buggy on Union Road—Funeral and Burial Services Yesterday at Olney Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Oscar S. Dixon, a prominent farmer of Gaston county, died suddenly Wednesday afternoon at one o'clock on the Union road, a mile or so south of the city. Mr. Dixon, accompanied by his niece, Miss Blanche Dixon, was coming to Gastonia in the former's buggy and had reached Mr. D. O. Moton's store when Mr. Dixon was stricken with heart disease, death being almost instantaneous.

He was carried into the home of Mr. R. B. Lineberger nearby and a physician called, but death occurred in a very short time and before medical attention could be secured. Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from Olney Presbyterian church, of which deceased was a life long member. Interment was in the cemetery nearby. Rev. G. A. Sparrow, pastor of Union and Olney Presbyterian churches, conducted the services, assisted by Rev. R. S. Burwell, pastor of New Hope church.

Deceased was unmarried and was 57 years old. He had lived for a long number of years at the old Dixon place, three miles south of the city and just off of the Union road. His sister, Miss Harriet Dixon, lived with him. He is survived by three brothers and two sisters as follows: Messrs. Emmett, Young and H. S. Dixon, Miss Harriet Dixon and Mrs. J. M. Farris, all of this county.

He was a quiet peaceable man and a highly respectable citizen. He was an elder in Olney church up to the time of his death and had held the office for a number of years. He has a host of friends here and elsewhere who will learn with sorrow of his death.

North Carolina's vote for President was taken to Washington Wednesday by Z. D. Henderson, of Newbern.

Thirty-five people became suddenly and violently ill in the town of Duke last Saturday morning. They had ptomaine poisoning developed from eating meat purchased from a local market.

It certainly pays to advertise consistently. There are twenty-six other mountains in Colorado higher than Pike's Peak.—B. H. and P. Employee's Magazine.

\$10 per day would be enforced. Mr. F. A. Costner, city cotton weigher, was allowed permission to retain the full amount of 10 cents collected on each bale of cotton for the year 1917 ending on May 1st.

Petition presented from the citizens of West Gastonia asking that asphalt be extended 300 feet on West Franklin avenue beyond Vance street, was ordered filed, the work to be done as soon as possible.

Petitions from the citizens on Fifth street asking for sidewalks on Fifth between South and Marietta street, was ordered filed the work to be done.