

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE 2 OPERA HOUSES

Tazewell Amusement Company Arranging for Building, and F. T. and E. F. Witten Doing Same - Their Statement.

"It never rains but that it pours," is an old proverb. The town has been for years practically without a playhouse. The Amuzu theatre we have is the poorest of makeshifts.

At the same time, Mr. Gammon, manager of the Amuzu here, informs the News man that a stock company with a number of the leading business men of the town back of it, have secured a lot, and have a subscription already sufficient to guarantee the success of the venture, and that this house will be built sure.

As we get it, Mr. Wyssor, the well known picture show proprietor of Richlands, is back of the stock company proposal here, and Mr. F. T. Witten, his wife and brother, E. F. Witten, are behind the other proposition.

The stock company will build on the lot back of the Harrison, Barnes & Co. store, fronting on Marion avenue, and the Wittens will build on their lot on West main street.

So, there you are. Tazewell is promised two picture show houses, instead of none at all as at present. The one now standing will soon be moved away. It is cited that Richlands and Honaker each have two such shows, and are living, why not Tazewell?

It is to be hoped that the "boys" will not overdo the thing here. There is a good percentage here on a reasonable investment in the picture show business, but for two such houses, costing from four to six thousand dollars each, the percentages, after maintenance, may not be remunerative. Can't we get together?

Tazewell Amusement Company. Notice.

The above company is now being incorporated for the purpose at the earliest possible date of erecting a suitable and creditable Opera House, to be designed and conducted under skilled management.

Stock will be issued to the amount of \$5,000, in 200 shares of \$25 each, par, one-half of which (100 shares), have been already subscribed.

As it is to the mutual advantage of the community and the company that the Tazewell Opera House should be publicly owned, 100 shares of the stock are now offered for subscription at \$25 per share, to be paid for as follows: \$5.00 on date of incorporation and \$5.00 per share monthly for four months.

Land has been purchased and plans for the building are now being drawn. The company has already demonstrated the possibilities and benefits of clean, wholesome, entertainment, under very adverse conditions and the need for an opera house building is beyond question.

Substantial business men will represent the community upon the committee and the board of directors.

While the appeal for public support of this enterprise is based more upon its benefits to the town than as a mere investment, it is anticipated that at best ten per cent interest will result from a properly managed play house.

No deposit is required. Please send application for shares to Charles F. Gammon, Box 252, Tazewell, Va.

A Card to the Public From Mr. Witten.

About six weeks ago it was announced in one of the local papers, and for even a longer period it has been generally known by friends, that I was planning to build an opera house on the Harrison lot on Main street purchased for that purpose.

For the past several days a persistent rumor has been afloat that a joint stock company for the purpose of building an opposition show house is being promoted; and that the Stras lot has been bought and that between two and three thousand dollars of the stock has been taken by leading business men of Tazewell. Realizing that a private enterprise could not compete with one in which a large number of the business men of the community were financially interested, I decided to make an investigation before proceeding further with my own plans.

Mr. Henry Kincer will begin work on the foundation of the proposed Tazewell Opera House as soon as the weather will permit.

on the foundation of the proposed Tazewell Opera House as soon as the weather will permit. Meanwhile, if there should develop an insistent clamor for an opera house to be paid for by the public and operated by promoters, the public will have no opposition. However, if there are any idle rich who feel that they must contribute to an opera house or bust, I am perfectly willing to add any frills they may suggest and will pay for.

FRANK T. WITTEN. Tazewell, Va., Dec. 16, 1915.

People Who Need Help While Living.

(Editorial.) Some one remarked the other day in the hearing of this writer: "In one thing, at least, we are greatly blessed—we have few, if any, people who need help. Everybody seems prosperous and able to take care of themselves."

It is true, nevertheless, as the Good Book says: "The poor ye have always with you," and we have them, too, right here in Tazewell and in the community. Perhaps, it is true, that we have a smaller number of the dependents than a majority of the smaller towns in this section. Very few people in this community need help except when sickness invades the home, or long, continued bad weather renders outdoor work impossible.

Under such conditions it becomes necessary that coal and provisions need to be donated to tide the family over.

This sort of help is the easiest given. There is another kind of assistance more urgently needed if possible than that of a pecuniary nature. In every community, rural as well as urban, there are families who need to be shown and taught how to live—how to use what they have to the best advantage, and to make their surroundings more healthful and comfortable.

It appears from a recent report in the Bluefield Telegraph, that that city and community have employed a lady expert in her line, whose business, it seems, is to go among the poor and destitute, and render aid herself, or see that aid is rendered, where needed, and the proper kind of aid properly rendered.

If we got a right view from the article referred to this lady is employed by the Civic Betterment League, or some such organization, in Bluefield, and is doing a work needed and badly needed, in this state. So many people do not know how to live. They just exist. Food and shelter is the height of their conception of what "a living" means. They know how to prepare food—after a fashion. They know how to "keep house" after a fashion. They do not know how. They are doing the best they know. How can they know unless they are taught? Particularly do many people need to be shown how and what to do in case of sickness—how to nurse the sick—how to prevent the spread of disease, how to ward off disease.

In the homes of the rich and educated people, a trained is an absolute necessity in cases of sickness, and she is wired for at once. If trained nurses cannot be employed in the homes of the poor, the poor can at least be assisted and shown how to care for the sick themselves. Such a woman—the right kind of a woman for the place, would do much to render the homes of the poor more comfortable and self-respecting.

These suggestions and reflections are respectfully commended to the Civic Betterment League, organized in this town some time ago. We have a strong, successful organization to care for our people, rich and poor alike after they are dead. Shall we think less of them while living?

Tazewell Circuit.

We have just closed a revival at Concord. The meeting continued ten days. There were twenty-five conversions and reclamations; twenty accessions to the Methodist church, and one to the Lutheran church.

God was with us in convicting power. There were no new methods used, no easy propositions, no excitement; but sinners were convicted of sin, came to an altar of prayer, repented and received the blessing. The church was greatly revived in the consecration service held from 11 to 12 each day. We had the very best of order from the beginning.

We had a splendid quarterly meeting at Mt. Olivet—good reports from most of the classes, good crowds, and fine sermons by the Presiding Elder. Three of the classes, Burke's Garden, Mt. Olivet and Concord, paid more than one-fourth of their salary. The next quarterly meeting goes to the Pleasant Hill church.

W. C. THOMPSON.

Where They Are.

The Clinch Valley News makes this inquiry: "What has become of the boy who used to brush the flies from his horses legs with a long cow's tail brush while the blacksmith tacked on a shoe? And the boy who parched corn on the miller's old wood stove while waiting for his 'turn'?" Some of them are at the head of great corporations and some are still doing business at the old stand. Much depends on the boy you know.—Times Dispatch.

Drew Ninety Days and \$50 Fine.

Alice Boice, a colored woman, who was left here by the carnival last fall, and who has been much in evidence at North Tazewell and vicinity since, was hailed before his honor, Mayor Britts, at North Tazewell one day this week, and tried and given ninety days in jail and fined \$50.00. The woman had been given every opportunity to leave town, but she would not accept them. By the time Alice finishes her sentence in the hotel de Harman, the robins will be with us again.

NO HAZING AT V. M. I. SAYS CADET GILLESPIE

"Honor Board of Military School Makes it Severe Penalty to Lay Hands on New Man At The Institution.

Cadet Victor Reese Gillespie, a member of and president of the senior class at V. M. I., was here this week. He is the youngest son and child of Dr. R. B. Gillespie. He came home upon the sad occasion of the death of his mother.

While here a News reporter asked him a number of questions about the school in general, and the reported hazing and death of young Thurber Sweet in particular. Mr. Gillespie is in a position to speak authoritatively upon matters pertaining to the hazing business, and many others regarding discipline, etc., in the school.

The Institute has what is known as an Honor Board, which is composed of upper class men. He is president of this Board, and said that the report that young Sweet died as the result of a hazing was not only not true, but further that he was not hazed at all. Not so much as a hand was laid on him.

For a number of years efforts have been strenuously put forth, said Cadet Gillespie, to stamp out hazing entirely. This has been done, necessarily, gradually, until at the beginning of this present session, hazing in all forms whatsoever was prohibited, and any man violating the law or breaking any of the rules, is promptly ordered to leave at once, which he is compelled to do at midnight, when no one sees him. Discipline in the school is quite rigid, but is not administered or enforced by hazing. The Honor Board defined "hazing" at the beginning of the school this year, in six short, plain statements. One was that no man was permitted to lay his hands on a boy in any manner, nor strike him in any manner. Causing one man to strike another was strictly forbidden, and so on.

It appears that hazing has been practically wiped out, and there is no more of it at V. M. I. The honor system of V. M. I. has become famous. A number of the colleges have copied the system, and the boys are very proud of it. And so, it is a clear case, the damaging reports sent out by somebody, possibly an enemy of the school, about Thurber Sweet are without foundation, absolutely.

Cadet Gillespie returns at once to his school. He completes his course this year, and will take up civil engineering as his life work, with a promising future before him.

PONDING MILL NEWS.

We are having a very severe cold spell. The ground is covered with snow.

Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Gillespie attended, on yesterday the funeral and burial of their aunt, Mrs. R. B. Gillespie at Tazewell.

Mr. Earnest McMullin spent Sunday with homefolks at Wittens Mills.

Miss Mary B. Altizer, was called here last week by her brother, J. T. Altizer, who was very sick for a night and day and is now able to resume his duties in the postoffice.

Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Doyle, with their pretty children, of Boston, were here from Saturday until Tuesday.

He preached some good sermons in the Holiness church, while here to appreciate audiences. He will probably hold a protracted meeting here in the spring, before returning to Boston. They were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Steele.

The widow Farmer is quite ill. She probably has the grip.

Rev. W. W. Yost, of Gap Store, preached here on last Sunday night a good sermon, it is said. He was accompanied by the Rev. R. E. Greer and were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Trayer.

Mr. and Mrs. James Lambert, of Asbury, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Petts Sunday night.

Miss Mabel Bourne, of Grattan, passed through on No. 11 this afternoon for Bondtown, to resume her duties in the Steele & Alder store.

AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT Several subscriptions to this paper have been received recently, as Christmas presents for friends and relatives living at a distance. Perhaps no gift costing so little will be as highly appreciated by those who are living away from the old home county. It goes once a week—a great long gossipy letter from home.

MUSICAL RECITAL. Miss Bessie Cricket's music class will give a recital in the High School Chapel, tomorrow (Saturday) night at 7:30 o'clock.

PATRONS and the public are cordially invited to attend.

POSTOFFICE BUILDING FOR TAZEWELL. Washington, D. C., Dec. 13.—Congressman Sloop, of Virginia, introduced bills today appropriating \$150,000 for the construction of a postoffice at Bristol, \$50,000 for Marion, \$50,000 for Tazewell, and \$75,000 for Coeburn.

DIDN'T WANT NEIGHBORS TO SEE THE FIGURES. A subscriber writes, "Please change the figures on my paper. I am ashamed for my neighbors to know that I am in arrears.

Not all people are so sensitive. Wish they were.

Cedar chests at Greever's.

NORTON WRITER RECALLS DAYS OF CHEAP CATTLE

Approaching Holiday Season Puts Correspondent in Reminiscent Mood—"Loose Your Boat An' Come on Home."

Norton, Va., December 12.—Another Christmas tide steals gently upon us; we who have passed the meridian of our day drift naturally toward the scenes of the years that are gone. With the passing of the old and the coming of the new it places us in full view of the retrospect and prospect, a time for recalling the associations of those with whom we enjoyed the holiday seasons of other years—a time of sweet, sad memories, yet, with renewed hope, and aspirations we turn to the new with earnest endeavor for improvement.

When Jacob was before Pharaoh in Egypt, Pharaoh asked him how old he was. The old patriarch answered: "The days of the years of my pilgrimage is an hundred and thirty years. Fear and evil have been the days of my pilgrimage." Thus it is with the mood of us, do the best we can.

While casting about for a suggestion for the future the thought of a great big celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Tazewell county came up. Some of the old towns of the south are making preparation for such an important event. How old is Tazewell? One hundred, maybe more we cannot quite remember. Anyway, an industrial and social affair of the kind could be gotten up and carried through by the Tazewell people with great "celat," whatever that means. One thing is certain, no county in the entire south has gone forward with such splendid leaps as has Tazewell. Look at the vast improvement of her sloping hills and fertile valleys and rich mountain sides, all covered with the finest bluegrass produced in the entire world. These lands are worth today from \$150 to \$200 per acre. Thirty or forty years ago, the writer can recall a number of miles at \$25 to \$30 per acre. Then great droves of two-year old cattle were driven out of our county every fall. They were, perhaps, half and half, "good blood" and "scrub." They brought \$30, \$35 and perhaps \$40 per head. Cattle in those days were bought up by Thomas Jefferson Higginbotham, of Liberty Hill, who was a type of the stately "old Virginia gentleman." Hansbarger was another buyer, also Dohbins, of Pulaski county. Their coming each autumn was looked to as a sort of salvation, "financially speaking." The old time steer, rather "lanky," could do some things that would make a big, fat lazy, "exporter" look like thirty cents. Could out-run an East Virginia "pine-brush" razor back hog when thoroughly "skereed" up, and from the hillsides and mountain tops with his silver bugle throat could bellow "Bonnie Eloise" to a finish. Yes, sir, he would make an export steer feel like getting out of the way and let somebody bellow what could bellow.

It was once said that the meat packers used every particle of the animal for something, except the bawl of the steer and the squeal of the pig, but since the introduction of the graphophone they have made it a clean sweep and now entertain great audiences with the music of "lowing herds" and squealing pigs.

Ah, Mr. Grapho man, you don't what you have missed. If you could only get the bugle notes of the old-time Tazewell steer as they echoed and re-echoed far down the valley against the hills you'd dream dreams of avarice you never dreamed before. I sometimes think if there is a "cow heaven" where the cattle roam a thousand hills eternal, I would like to have the celestial herds assemble all the old time Tazewell steers and turn 'em loose on Bonne Eloise or a moo-e-o-ise march, that would be heaven for me for a while anyway.

The Good book tells us that in that land our youth shall be renewed. Such music, I think, would help renew mine. It would make me a "bare-foot boy again" back on the bluegrass hills of dear old native Tazewell.

But I am drifting far a-field, even in the "Empyrean" fields, pictured so eloquently by brother J. A. H. Shuler. Getting back to "terra firma" the show, the big show, would be great for Tazewell. Hope you editor will think about it. The progress of education and Sunday Schools would show up wonderfully in the demonstration. Taking advancement along all lines, Tazewell county cannot be excelled in the State.

It would be a home-coming time "right." As uncle "Rome," the old time darkey said, "I'm gwine home, Sweet voices callin'! Sweet voices callin'! Seem ringin' in my ears; An', swearin' sorter scieable, O! master's voice I hears."

"De way he used to call his boat Across de river Rome, You damn o' nigger come an' bring Dat Boat an' row me home!"

"He's passed de river now, an' soon He'll call across its foam You, Rome, you dam'n o' nigger, Loose you boat an' come on home."

And so with us all, away from Tazewell.

We'd jus' cut loose the boat, An' come on home. T.F.S.

Cut-Glass at Greever's. Carriage heaters at Greever's. Blue and brown tea sets at Greever's.

SHRADERS NEWS NOTES.

Mr. J. R. Melvin, of Grattan, and Miss Lulu Peery, of Shraders, were united in marriage the 8th inst. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Peery, and popular in the society of this community. The groom is an enterprising Tazewell farmer. The happy young couple will reside near Grattan. The best wishes of their friends attend them.

R. F. Brooks, an expert painter, is painting the interior of Mr. J. J. Riley's new residence.

Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Riley and Miss Bessie Dudley, of Tennessee, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. Stevenson in our village.

Mr. L. Earle Stevenson, of this place, recently accepted a position with the Litz & Smith Coal Company at Litzville, W. Va.

Mr. A. J. Hunt, a carpenter, will erect a residence in Horsepen Cove for B. A. Milam.

Sunday, Mr. R. F. Brooks, of the Breedenap, was the guest of Bear Tazewell friends.

Mrs. J. J. Riley and Miss Bessie Dudley will spend the holidays in Tennessee as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. Dudley.

Mr. T. H. Crockett, a popular merchant, attended the Rebekah Lodge meeting at Tazewell Saturday.

J. Q. Pearce Dead. Prof. J. Q. Pearce, about 70 years of age, died at his home in Norton, on Wednesday last week. He was for a number of years principal of the Norton schools, proprietor of the Mountain View hotel, and at the time of his death and for a number of years preceding, was a successful merchant. He was a leading deacon in the Baptist church. No man, judging from reports, stood higher than did this gentle, sweet spirited man. He is survived by his widow and three sons—John Ed. Pearce, editor of the Progress; Dr. Clarence Pearce, of Dryden, and Richard Pearce, in the railroad business in Texas.

Pocahontas to Be Cleaned Out. Rose Chambers, the Pocahontas woman, whose trial was mentioned in the last issue of the News, was assessed a total of \$465.00 by the jury and the Judge in court here last Friday, the case having been appealed from the judgment of the police judge of Pocahontas. The Mayor, a number of the councilmen and other citizens of Pocahontas, were here at the trial. It was intimated that the Town authorities of Pocahontas, in view of the outcome of the appeal to this court, would take steps now to rid Pocahontas of all the undesirable women that have flocked to that town since West Virginia went dry.

Miss Alma Heninger Dead. Miss Alma Heninger, of Burke's Garden, died suddenly last Saturday afternoon about three o'clock. In the morning she had felt about as well as usual, but by about 9 o'clock began to complain of a severe pain in her chest. As this did not get any better the family sent for a physician. When he arrived about three o'clock he found Miss Heninger in a dying condition, and she expired in a short time.

The funeral services were conducted in the Central church in Burke's Garden Sunday afternoon at 3:30 by Rev. W. W. Arrowood, of Tazewell.

Decensed was a daughter of Mrs. C. V. Heninger, of Burke's Garden and one of the prominent young women of that community.

Library tables at Greever's. Aluminum ware, (all kinds) at Greever's.

Here's Argument for the W. C. T. U. The New York Daily World of the 15th inst., contained the following: "Of 1,482 men questioned at the Municipal Lodging House during the past year, 1,292, or nine out of ten, admitted they were drinkers of alcoholic liquors; 44 per cent admitted they drank excessively, 43 per cent claimed to be moderate drinkers, while only 100 said they were total abstainers."

These facts were made known yesterday in the annual report of the Advisory Social Service Committee of the lodging house. The report also shows 43 per cent of those who applied for aid were foreign born.

Of 2,000 men who were given medical examinations, 1,774 were found to be physically able to work."

Free Calendar. As long as they last, we will send to any one asking for it, a handsome calendar and almanac. John E. Jackson, the Rexall store.

Had to Tie 'em Up. Here is one told by G. W. Doak while on his trip to San Francisco, last fall taken from a western paper.

Needless to say, this story was told by a Virginian. A visitor to heaven was being shown around Saint Peter. After he had made the circuit and admired the streets of gold, and the singing birds, and the beautiful flowers, and was about to go out the gate again, he noticed a group of men over in the corner tied together, looking very disconsolate.

"Why, who are those men over there?" he asked St. Peter in surprise.

"Oh," said St. Peter, "those? Those are Virginians."

"But what are the chained up for?" asked the visitor.

"We have to keep them tied up," said St. Peter, frowning, "if we didn't they'd all go right back."

January Columbia Records, now on sale at Hawkins' Pharmacy.

The W. C. T. U. will meet Tuesday afternoon, December 21st, at 2:30 in the Ladies Club room.

Mrs. Harry Buston, Mrs. Jeff Ward, Mrs. Wm. Bullard, Committee.

"Fixing 'Em Up For Christmas." Alex Dickenson says: "If you haven't the money to purchase a new suit for Christmas let him have your old one for a while, and he'll make it look like a new one. Folks will think you have a new one, and you needn't tell 'em any better. He will call for your clothes, clean and press and return promptly."

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MRS. DR. R. B. GILLESPIE DIES AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS

Expired Sunday Morning at Her Home Here—Was Founder of Tazewell Female Seminary and Teacher of Note.

Mrs. Gillespie, wife of Dr. R. B. Gillespie, died at her home here last Sunday morning, about 6 o'clock, after a brief illness, of peritonitis, induced by appendicitis. Her death cast a gloom over the entire community. It was unexpected and a great shock.

The funeral and burial took place on Monday at 11 o'clock, from the Christian church, of which she was a member of long standing, conducted by her pastor, Rev. W. S. Bullard.

The pall-bearers were, active: W. Archie Thompson, C. W. Jones, Jeff Ward, J. P. Williams, H. P. Brittain, John O'Keefe, H. W. Pobst, Honorary: S. M. B. Conling, B. W. Stras, Dr. G. R. Johnson, Dr. D. D. Johnston, Dr. W. L. Center, Dr. Isaac Pierce, Henry Preston, C. T. Peery, F. T. Witten and R. O. Crockett. Flower bearers were the school teachers of the town, and even this number were not sufficient to carry the large quantity of flowers, which crowded the casket.

Notwithstanding the wintry, and extremely unpropitious weather, a large concourse of people filled the church, bearing testimony to their appreciation of one whom they all could claim as friend. Mr. Bullard read appropriate passages from the Bible, and made a tender, appropriate address, bearing the highest testimony to one, he said, who had been known and appreciated from her girlhood.

Interment was made in Jeffersonville cemetery. Besides a husband, deceased, she left a daughter, Mrs. A. G. Russell, and two sons—Messrs. Berkeley E. and Victor B. Gillespie, the latter a student at V. M. I., and Mr. Berkeley Gillespie, a road contractor in Tennessee. All the children were present at the funeral.

Mrs. Ella Vernon Gillespie was a daughter of Rev. Cephus Shelburne, and was born about 38 years ago at her father's home in Montgomery county. The only surviving member of the family are two brothers, Rev. Cephus Shelburne, now preaching in Texas, and Mr. Silas Shelburne, a tobaccoist of Kentucky; one sister, Mrs. Spindle, of Knoxville.

She was educated in Montgomery Female Institute, taught by a Miss Bullock, a famous school in that day. After the school days, she taught several years in different places, and finally accepted a position as teacher in Milligan College, Tennessee, in the year 1880 or 1881. Here she met her future husband, Reese B. Gillespie, of Tazewell, a student in the institution. They were married early in the year 1882, and at the close of the session the young people came to Tazewell.

She engaged again in teaching and her husband entered a medical college to complete a medical course. In the year 1886 she established the Tazewell Female Seminary, which attracted a large number of students, not only from the community, but from abroad. After a successful period of seven years, the seminary burned in the spring of 1893. At that time her brother, Rev. Cephus Shelburne, was associated with her. This ended her work as a teacher in the schools. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to re-establish the seminary, and it was finally merged with Tazewell College, taught by Rev. A. A. Ferguson, whose first wife was Mrs. Gillespie's sister.

Decensed paternal ancestors were ministers for several generations. Her great-grandfather, Rev. James Shelburne was a Baptist minister, her grandfather, Rev. Silas Shelburne, and her father, were ministers of the Christian church, all of them strong, useful men in their day and generation, of whom she was a worthy successor, and, like them, she sleeps in an honored grave.

Loss is Heavy to Missionary Society. The members of the Tazewell Auxiliary of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions wish to record their feeling of loss in the death of their Vice-President, Mrs. Ella Gillespie, and something of their estimate of her Christian life and work.

By force of character and grace of disposition, she was an acknowledged leader; and we looked to her for initiation in planning, and for zeal in carrying out our work. Having the courage of her opinions, and her faith, she did not hesitate to exert us, and in Bible phrase "to provoke us unto love and to good works."

In the home, in society and in the church she imitated the Master, and lived but to serve. In her service she was "faithful unto death," and has now inherited the "crown laid up for her." To her family we give sincere sympathy. We mourn with them. For ourselves we feel it to be, and pray that it might be, that our increase in faithfulness may be added proof that she has not lived in vain.

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