

A SPLENDID SHOWING!

The Germs of a Great Manufacturing City and the Forces that are to Hasten its Development.

Facts in regard to the Coal, Iron and Timber that no one will question after Examination.

THE MOST VIGOROUS YOUNG LION OF THE FOLD.

The Post-to-day makes an extraordinary display. It contains a statement of the interests centered here, from which some idea may be formed of the business activity of a city that was founded only a year or two ago. Nothing but an earthquake or some widespread and crushing calamity can prevent a far better showing twelve months hence.

Big Stone Gap Improvement Company. Capital Stock, \$250,000. R. A. Ayers, Estillville, Va., President.

Yayette Land Company. Capital Stock, \$200,000. J. B. Simrall, Lexington, Ky., President.

Big Stone Gap Building and Investment Company. Capital Stock, \$100,000. R. T. Irvine, Big Stone Gap, Va., President.

Big Stone Gap Water Company. Capital Stock, \$200,000. Wm. McGeorge, Jr., Philadelphia, Penn., Secretary.

Valley Street Railway. Capital Stock, \$25,000. R. A. Ayers, Estillville, Va., President.

East Big Stone Gap Land and Improvement Company. Capital, \$500,000. J. B. F. Mills, Big Stone Gap, President.

Southwest Virginia Mineral Land Company. Capital, \$1,500,000. Has 110,000 acres of coking coal, iron ore and lignite land.

Bank of Big Stone Gap. Capital Stock, \$100,000. W. H. Nickels, Big Stone Gap, Va., President.

Appalachian Bank. Capital Stock, \$100,000. Chas. H. Berryman, Cashier.

Interment Building Company. Capital, \$25,000. H. H. Bullitt, Big Stone Gap, Va., President.

The Appalachian Steel and Iron Company. Capital, \$800,000. James F. Peters, Ironton, O., President.

Mountain Park Association. Capital, \$75,000. James W. Fox, New York, President.

West-End Land Company. Capital, \$200,000. James L. Shields, Knoxville, Tenn., President.

Interstate Tunnel Company. Capital, \$1,000,000. H. C. McDowell, Lexington, Ky., President.

Big Stone Gap Electric Light and Power Company. Capital Stock, \$50,000. Chas. T. Ballard, Louisville, Ky., President.

South Appalachian Land Company. H. C. McDowell, Lexington, Ky., President.

Post Publishing Company. Capital, \$10,000. C. E. Sears, Big Stone Gap, Va., President.

Powell's River Coal and Coke Company. (Principal Office, Big Stone Gap.) Capital, \$50,000.

Sulphur Springs Land Company. Capital, \$100,000. W. T. Goodloe, Big Stone Gap, Va., Trustee.

Trust and Loan Company. Capital, \$250,000. (Arranged for.)

Table with 2 columns: Company Name and Capital. Includes Virginia Coal and Iron Company, Virginia Steel and Iron Company, etc.

National Building and Loan Association of New York. Big Stone Gap Branch.

Old Dominion Building and Loan Association of Richmond, Va. Big Stone Gap Branch.

Interstate Building and Loan Association of Columbus, Ga. Big Stone Gap Branch.

People's Building, Loan and Savings Association of Grand Rapids, Mich. Big Stone Gap Branch.

Knoxville Building and Loan Association of Knoxville, Tenn. Big Stone Gap Branch.

City Officers. Mayor: H. A. W. Sken. Clerk: S. H. Jesse.

Councilmen. J. B. Adams, C. W. Evans, Horace E. Fox, W. T. Goodloe, C. D. Kunkel, C. E. Spalding.

Powell's River Fire Department. R. T. Irvine, Chief. H. C. McDowell, Jr., Assistant Chief.

List of Committees of the Commercial Club of Big Stone Gap. Executive Committee: R. T. Irvine, Chairman.

Finance Committee. W. K. Siskley, Chairman. H. H. Bullitt, Jr., Secretary.

Transportation Committee. H. C. McDowell, Jr., Chairman. C. W. Evans, Secretary.

Reception Committee. W. C. Fox, Jr., Chairman. J. B. F. Mills, Secretary.

Stove Works. W. E. Addison. Horace and Leather. C. H. Kunkel.

Mineral Paint. Horace Fox. Wood Manufactures. L. T. Mathey.

Wire and Rails. E. J. Ridd. Big Stone Gap Improvement Company.

Mr. James W. Fox, director of the Improvement Company, who is active in the conduct of its affairs, in a conversation, said: 'What our company has done since the past year is evident to any one who looks around.'

'I know of negotiations on hand of which I cannot speak as it is thought they can more easily come to a speedy and successful issue if worked quietly.'

The gentleman very much interested in the success of the tunnel said: 'The engineers in charge of the survey have just about completed their field work and we expect them to arrive in Big Stone Gap next week to work up their notes.'

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stock, and it is being paid in. We have employed a competent superintendent of construction, who with a force of men is now erecting a block of six cottages, as a start. We expect to put up a hundred houses during the year, and in fact, to push our plans all along the line as hard as we can within the limits of our means.

East Big Stone Gap Land and Improvement Company. Senator Mills, the president, reports as follows:—The company was organized on the 8th day of April, 1890, and a meeting of the stockholders was held in Goodson, Va., on that date.

Among the principal stockholders of the company are T. B. Wright, Smithfield, Va.; R. B. Lee, of Richmond, Va.; M. B. Wood, Bristol, Tenn.; H. H. Downing, Front Royal, Va.; James E. Yates, Warrenton, Va.; H. D. Flood, Appomattox, C. H., Va.; James Russell, Winchester, Va.; John E. Massey, Richmond, Va.; W. T. Miller, Tacoma, Va.; Percival and Field, Petersburg, Va.; Rixey and Barbour, Culpeper, Va.; W. H. Pace, Raleigh, N. C.; E. P. Buford, and J. R. Rawlings, Lawrenceville, Va.; H. A. W. Sken, Big Stone Gap, Va.; F. A. Stratton, Johnson City, Tenn.; Chas. S. Hunter, Warwick, N. Y.; L. D. Adams, Warwick, N. Y.; A. S. Horsely, Abingdon, Va.; M. W. Bishford, Paris, Ky.; P. W. McKinney, Richmond, Va.; A. E. Dickenson, Richmond, Va.; J. F. Bullitt, Jr., Big Stone Gap, and many others.

Water Company. A stock-holder in the Big Stone Gap Water Company has this to say: 'The dam at the head of the water works on South Fork, six miles above Big Stone Gap, and above any possible source of contamination, has been put in, a very large quantity of the pipe has been delivered here, and much of it hauled to place and laid in the trenches, so you will see the work is progressing satisfactorily, and our people will have a water supply this spring or at least before the summer heat renders our well water less palatable.'

Valley Street Railway. A director in the dummy line says: 'Considering the times, the Valley Street Railway is doing a good business, both in freight and passenger traffic, more than paying expenses were it not for the cost of getting a new mill in shape. More than a mile of track has been laid, and grading for nearly two miles more completed, and the line will be extended as the needs of the community require it. This will be a great convenience later on for hauling building materials, coal, and other freights during the night, when we are larger.'

Industrial Notes. W. C. Robinson, the jeweler: 'Yes, I have done a good business in Big Stone Gap, as good as I expected; and I have done an especially good Christmas trade, selling out my stock of holiday goods almost entirely. One week recently I shipped goods to six states, and last week to three others, making nine in all. You can attribute this to the excellence of my stock, or to the cosmopolitan character of our population, as you like.'

Goodloe Bros.: 'We have done a good business here, though our trade has been somewhat affected by the money stringency of the last ninety days. As you see we have taken the adjoining store and have erected this large warehouse, and we may also establish a branch at the mouth of Looney or Callahan's creek, wherever the station will be at the north end of the Gap. At the proper time we will erect a large brick store and warehouse at East Fifth Street and Clinton avenue, or on Wood avenue if we can get a location on reasonable terms.'

From the books of City Collector W. B. Kilbourne, we get the following interesting figures: 'The twenty largest tax-payers in plat 1, the only property yet assessed, arranged according to the amounts they pay on property, held by them February 1, 1890, are: Big Stone Gap Improvement Company, Whitridge & Fox, Boston and New York; McGeorge & Nickels, Philadelphia and Big Stone Gap; George W. Hendley, Lexington, Ky.; W. E. Harris, Big Stone Gap; Harry & Hardin, Big Stone Gap; The general Virginia Mineral Land Company, Norfolk; W. T. Goodloe, Big Stone Gap; J. H. Duff, Big Stone Gap; E. H. Ould, Big Stone Gap; A. C. Harvey, Bristol, Tenn.; Mrs. R. Sumnerfield, Danville, Va.; L. B. Cook, John Gilley, Big Stone Gap; E. M. Hardin, Big Stone Gap; O. H. Bollen, J. B. Simrall, Lexington, Ky.; W. H. Nickels, Big Stone Gap; W. W. Nickels, Big Stone Gap.'

Since then there have been many changes, and many large property holders of property not mentioned at all. But the general holding by large owners at stiff prices shows their confidence and expectations. The two largest tax-payers on buildings are The Interment Building Company, Big Stone Gap, and Gen. R. A. Ayers, Estillville, Va. The six largest tax-payers of Big Stone Gap on personal property are in their order: James M. Flannery, Joshua F. Bullitt, Jr., H. C. McDowell, Jr., R. H. Jones, P. M. Mill's Estate and W. T. Goodloe.

The average of 423 lots in plat 1 is only \$291.75, and the total valuation of all is only \$222,450, which is absurdly low. Several lots have sold at \$300, and many are sold at \$4,000 and \$5,000, and the average is more probably between \$1,000 and \$2,000 for the entire plat.

The above valuation is about that of acre property, and this by an absurd Virginia law must stand, unless special legislation is secured, which will probably be the case.

These tax-lists were gotten up by Irvine & Shelby, attorneys, and by R. T. Irvine, commissioner of revenue, while the collections are being pushed by W. B. Kilbourne.

Building Notes. Three stores and two residences are now going up at East Big Stone Gap, and two other residences are under contract. Your residences are in course of erection near Wolfe & Fox's planing mill and the station.

The South Atlantic & Ohio railroad people have promised a handsome little \$300 station where they cross the dummy line. DeBasque & Taylor are putting up two store-rooms on East Fifth street.

Mr. Hillman of Lynchburg, is building a drug store near the postoffice for S. L. Whitehead. W. C. Robinson, the jeweler, is seeking a site on Wood avenue for a three-story brick, lower floor to be for his uses and the two upper offices and bed-rooms.

Mr. Cordly has built an office on the dummy line for the accommodation of his patrons requiring masonry work. W. A. McDowell is putting an addition to his temporary home.

The Big Stone Gap Building and Investment Company is to put up sixteen houses at once. G. E. Setton is about to build five cottages about his planing mill.

Messrs. E. M. Young, Kelly, McManaway and Simmons will build at Sulphur Springs Addition. S. L. Whitehead has contracted for a house on Gilly avenue.

Gen. Ayers has finished the foundation of the handsome house in the Gap, and will build the superstructure of brown sand stone as rapidly as the masons get it out.

C. H. Berryman has given the contract for his Popular Hill house, which will be done by Mr. Kaylor. The Exposition Hall and residences for the following gentlemen on Poplar Hill are in different stages of progress: Ayers, Harris, Fox, McDowell, Berryman and Foster, costing from \$4,000 to \$13,000, and several others contracted for.

The contract for Mr. Fetter's house has been let to C. K. & C. H. Spalding. The contract for the foundation of the Methodist Church has been let to Mr. Knox, and the plan for the superstructure are in the hands of the committee for bids.

By the kindness of Mr. Horace E. Fox, who has taken the trouble to count them, it appears that of the 205 houses in Big Stone Gap, 119 were built prior to 1890 and eighty-six during that year, a growth of 73 per cent in one year, which is very encouraging. The sound of the hammer and saw is now almost constant. One has to ride around frequently to keep up with the progress of the place.

FINANCIAL. New York, Jan. 1.—The financial situation here has greatly improved and it is believed money will become a drag in the market before the end of January. All uneasiness has been dispelled and no more failures are expected.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL'S DROP. It Comes Down from its Pretentious Perch and Lowers its Price to Save Its Circulation. LOUISVILLE, Jan. 1.—Quite a sensation was caused this morning by the announcement in the Courier-Journal, that it would hereafter be furnished to subscribers at 15 cents per week. It does this to save its circulation which has never reached over 14,000 daily, though it was popularly supposed to have many more. The Commercial has been enlarged to six pages and is crowding out its neighbor for the city patronage.

The com-down of the Courier-Journal is regarded here as very significant, and many believe it is financially cramped.

BLOODY INDIAN FIGHTING. The Troops and Hostiles Have Had Several Collisions and the Black Flag is Raised on Both Sides. OMAHA, Jan. 1.—Since the battle at Wounded Knee creek, in which some twenty soldiers were killed and wounded and about seventy-five Indians, the Upper Sioux, some three thousand strong, have gone on the war path, under the leadership of Big Head, Kicking Bear, Little Wound and others. They are en route for the Bad Lands and a bloody battle is expected at any hour. Depredations are numerous, and there is great excitement and alarm among the settlers. Many of the latter have been found murdered and scalped in every direction. The black flag is up on both sides, and neither troops nor Indians show quarter. In the last battle the latter fought to the death, shooting after they had fallen from wounds. A serious war is on hand.

B. S. G. Improvement Company Meeting. The meeting of the directors and bondholders of the Big Stone Gap Improvement Company will be held at the Everett House in New York, January 21. A large attendance is earnestly desired.

\$450,000 Building Burned. BALTIMORE, Dec. 28.—The Masonic Temple was razed to-day by fire. Luckily the burning took place just before Forepaugh's theatre, which is in the Temple, would have opened for the day's performance. The building is reduced to a mere shell. Nearly all the records of the Grand Lodge since its organization more than a century ago, the paraphernalia, uniforms, records of individual lodges, costly banners and relics that can't be replaced, together with the library were burned. The massive brick walls retained the immense heat which raged within, but the east end of the south wall was forced out of plumb and will have to come down.

The Kentucky Union Railway. The Kentucky Union Railway, on its way to Big Stone Gap, has gotten so far on its road in the Kentucky mountains that it is shipped out its first carload of coal before last. Its further construction will probably be pushed simultaneously with work on the Interstate Tunnel, with which it will connect.

Electric Light News. To the public: We are cleaning out our well, making some needed repairs on the boiler, and by Monday when we will have on hand a competent electrician, when we shall try to make a record of having lights on every night without fail.

Big Stone Gap Electric Light Company. A man was going around town Wednesday with a subscription paper to get means to buy a child, and help a crippled father. All such cases should be carried before the grand jury for investigation, and if found worthy, the city's contribution can then be properly supplemented by the public charity.

Impatientness Rebuked. (From Louisville.) He—'I know that you don't love me. I don't ask for that. I only ask that you will be true to me. How can you wait till I marry somebody else?'

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