

The Burke County News.

FIRST OF ALL—THE NEWS.

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MORGANTON, N. C. In 1900.

LEADING ITS SISTER CITIES IN MANUFACTURING PROGRESS.

A POPULATION OF 3000.

Boasting illimitable resources its future is assured--The coming manufacturing centre of Western North Carolina.

ITS RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES ARE UNEXCELLED--ITS PEOPLE ARE REFINED AND CULTURED. HER ENTERPRISING BUSINESS PEOPLE.

IN presenting this special industrial edition of the News devoted the interests of Morganton and her enterprising business people it is not our purpose to write a voluminous story elaborated with bombastic language but to briefly portray the great inducements offered homeseekers and capitalists with a resume of its illimitable resources and inexhaustible fuel supply.

BURKE COUNTY.

When we say that Burke is one of the richest and most resourceful counties of the fertile Old North State we do not exaggerate her claim. Almost surrounding by mountains—not a valley; for the country has a general altitude 1200 ft., its lands are enriched from the picturesque Blue Ridge which lies just beyond its borders to the North and West while the South Mountain Range looms up on the south side to majestic height of 2600 ft., above the sea level. One third of the county, which has area of 582 square miles, is mountainous or rolling plateaus, the remaining portion consist of fertile highlands, verdent valleys, and well timbered forests. The high lands are a heavy red soil while the valleys are a sandy loam, both of which are of easy cultivation; adapted to the growth of Wheat, Corn, Oats, Rye, Hay, Tobacco, Potatoes, Vegetables and all kinds Fruits. Any crop when properly executed will yield an abundant harvest. For pastorage and the raising of all kinds of cattle and stock the county offers exceptional advantages. It is intersperse with living streams, which, however, does not subject the lands along their courses to freshet or over flows. Harbored within the borders of Burke are thousands of acres of land in a virgin state and which, while suitable for agricultural development, are especially adapted to the stock raising industry and the establishing of creameries, and it is on these lands that the best breeds of cattle thrive and produce greater results than on any section of the globe.

The county abounds in minerals and it may be said here that the mining interests of this section is now enjoying a new impetus. Shafts are being sunk in various sections of the county with exceedingly rich results. While the precious metal is to be found all over this section of the State, the lands in the Northeastern portion of the county are exceedingly rich in gold ore. Also mining for iron, asbestos, corundum and pottery clay is prosecuted under the most favorable and profitable conditions in various parts of the county. According to findings we have in Burke tetradymite, brookite, smoky quartz, chromite, anatase, epidote, fibrolite, columbite, samarskite, xenotime, monazite, montanite, talc, tremalite, tellurium, asbestos, graphite, rutile, palladium, galena, garnet, titanite, platinum, manganese, itacolumite, chlorite, kaolinite, fergusonite, rutherfordite, mynatite, limonite, monnacanite, cyanite, actionlite, wolframite, fluorite, alpite, radiated, pyrophyllite, lead, titanite, silver, cerargyrite, psilomelane, serpentine, treunerite, crysolite, tremolite, mascerite,

sagenite, electrum, lithomarge, pargorite. With the Catawba, Linville, Johns' Upper South Fork and the Lower South Fork Rivers and number of streams and creeks the water power of Burke County is unexcelled and is sufficiently advantageous to attract the attention of capitalists from every section.

MORGANTON.

Morganton has always been considered beautiful for situation. With the main range of the Blue Ridge mountain within 16 miles on the left and South range with even closer proximity make the surroundings picturesque indeed—with their blue peaks in summer and their white caps in winter, afford themselves a feast for the eye. Sufficiently near the mountains to be fanned in summer by the cooling, health conducive ozone which sweeps across them, yet sheltered, as it were, from the rigors which in winter they entail, Morganton's location with reference to them, is indeed most happy. She secures all the advantages they have to confer and suffers none of the hardships they have to give. Their proximity in one sense and removedness in another, give to this place a rarely equable climate, to which withering heat and biting cold are alike unknown.

The city in latitude is 35 degrees 45 and longitude 81 degrees 44 and has a mean annual rain fall of 54.53 inches.

MANUFACTURES.

Morganton has a number of manufacturing enterprises, prominent among which are the Alpine Cotton Mills, warps and yarns; The Morganton Mfg & Trading Co., sash, doors and blinds; Hogans Roller Mill, flour and meal, and the Burke Tanning Co., sole leather and belting. These enterprises with a number of smaller ones are under the most successful operation—employing a number of well paid and intelligent operatives—declaring splendid dividends their payrolls combined are a source of great revenue to the business interest of the city. The resources for the establishing all kinds of manufacturing enterprises are unexcelled by any location in the south, as the raw materials are close at hand and the fuel supply inexhaustible. The business people of this city are ever ready and waiting to aid in the establishing of manufacturing's institution of every description. The town, in view of developing her resources exempts from taxation for five years all enterprises employing a capital of \$5000 and upward.

HEALTHFULNESS.

Perhaps no town of even size can boasting a lower death rate than Morganton. The cite of Morganton, situated upon a chain of hillocks connecting the Blue Ridge and South Mountains is sufficiently higher than the surrounding country to furnish an unsurpassed natural drainage, while an observer can but be favorable impressed with the cleanliness of her well graded streets and the sanitary condition of the town in general. Tourists who flee from the rigors of winter and the oppressive heat of summer have been for years past attracted by the climatic conditions and the picturesque environments of Morganton and in 1900 we find it even more popular than ever before—enjoying a celebrity as a health resort indeed enviable to its contemporary sister cities.

COMMERCIAL.

The commercial world of Morganton is made of jobbers, and retail establishments of mammoth proportions compared with her size. Being the county seat of Burke it naturally holds a commanding position over her sister cities as a commercial centre. It has the backing of a vast and resourceful territory and is the marketing centre for the entire of section country known as the Catawba Valley. Her merchants are sagacious and enterprising and it may be said to

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ALPINE COTTON MILLS.

IN making a resume of the commercial and manufacturing interests of Morganton we make special mention of the Alpine Cotton Mills as it is a potent factor in the maintenance of the prosperity and progress which this city now enjoys. This mill was established four years ago and has since been under the most successful operation—running day and night—while its products consisting of yarns and warps compare favorably with the leading factories of the south and are ever in de-

mand. The plant embraces a modern structure, equipped with the most improved machinery for the manufacture of yarns and warps. They employ a large number of experienced operatives who are well paid and furnished comfortable homes in close proximity with the premises. In all it is one of the most successful cotton mills now in the south. The officers of this institution are Mess. W. A. Ervin, of Durham, President, B. N. Duke, of Durham, Vice-president and T. P. Moore, of this city, Secretary & Treasurer, all of whom

are prominent men in the textile interest of the South. Thoroughly conversant with the manufacture of cotton in detail.

BURKE COUNTY BANK.

An Individual Responsibility of Over a Quarter million

WITH over a quarter million dollars of Individual Responsibility the Burke County Bank furnishes ample facilities for the banking business of this city and surrounding country. They occupy a handsome building

equipped with improved vaults and facilities for the successful prosecution of modern banking. Its officers are Mess Clement Geitner, president; K. C. Menzies, vice-president A. M. Ingold, cashier and G. M. Collett, teller. Its directorate is composed of substantial financiers. Coupling these facts with unexcelled connections throughout the country, this bank offers to its patrons and friends every facility for business consistent with safe and prudent banking.

They solicit all legitimate banking business.