

**GREAT FALLS**

**The Story of Rapid Growth of Nearby Town and Community.**

Correspondence of Yorkville Enquirer.  
Great Falls, April 24.—Seventeen years ago the tawny Catawba ran through this town and section which was then little more than a wilderness, untrammelled and undisturbed. Few of the sparse population who made a living on the wild lands then realized that in a few years the waters of the turbid stream would be to harness and that they would soon be the basis of livelihood for several thousand people, residents of one of the most model towns in South Carolina from an architectural standpoint and in fact from almost any standpoint. So rapidly has Great Falls grown and so rapidly is it growing that one is reminded in a way of the boom oil towns of the southwest. There is a great difference, however, in the fact that Great Falls is being built to stay while most of the oil towns were never conceived with that idea. The best architects and builders are employed at Great Falls. There are few if any shacks that stand by grace of the winds.  
Great Falls, which is situated in the south-eastern section of Chester county, some twenty-four miles from the county seat, is only seventeen years old. That is counting from the time the Southern Power Company began

building its great power plant here. Really the town is not that old, since no attempt was made to begin building a substantial town until some time later. Only rude shacks were here to house the workmen employed in constructing the dams and power houses at Fishing Creek or Nitrolee, Great Falls and Rocky Creek, all within five miles of each other. The original idea was to build them to furnish current to towns of North and South Carolina. Then the company decided to build a great cotton mill here and later another one. Then Great Falls began to grow great. It hasn't stopped growing. There is no indication that it will. On the other hand more than \$1,000,000 worth of construction work is going on right now. Another great power plant is under construction at Great Falls. Contractors are busy digging a foundation for it under the river bed. Twelve new store buildings—handsome, commodious store buildings which would be a credit to any large city are nearing completion.  
While Great Falls just now is a town of 3,000 people and without a church such a condition will not exist long. The only church of the town which was built by the company for the use of members of all denominations was destroyed by fire New Year's day. Since then religious services have been held on the Sabbath in the two handsome school buildings and in the picture show. But three churches will rise from the ashes of

the Union church destroyed by the flames. The Baptists are just now completing a handsome brick edifice, built on the latest plans for a model church and with full Sunday school equipment. Some time ago the Methodists decided to begin the building of a church here in the near future, and announcement has just been made that the Presbyterians of the town and community plan to build a house of worship here. All three churches will be large and commodious and all will be well filled because the majority—the big majority of Great Falls inhabitants are church-going folks.  
Every building in the town of Great Falls is the property of the Southern Power Company and the Republic Mills Company. The two cotton mills which are among the largest in the state, manufacture white goods. Workers have not been worried on account of poor business in the textile trade. Both plants are running now day and night and there has never been a rumor of a probable suspension of work. Both mills are models in textile plant construction and everything possible is done for the comfort and convenience of the workers. The mills employ a community nurse, a physician, teachers, school buildings—everything necessary to employes both at work and at home. It is said to be one of the most excellent mill towns of the country and a visit bears out the statement.  
There is persistent talk here that the company proposes to build another mill and residents point out to the visitor the site that the new mill will occupy. In fact, it is said that the company has had plans for this construction for some time. Whether it will be built or not remains to be seen but it is a fact nevertheless that new people keep coming into the town or making inquiries about it and the fact that so many new store rooms and other places have been built and are being built substantiates such reports.  
Although Great Falls is some distance away from the main railroad lines that traverse this section of the state, it has a railroad all its own and is not entirely devoid of communication with the outside world. Great Falls' "Shoo-Fly" is a branch of the Seaboard Air Line running between here and Catawba Junction where connection is made for anywhere. The "Shoo-fly" has its passenger and mail and freight service, heading in and backing out twice daily. Like the famous "Due West Railroad" it adheres strictly to a six day week schedule and there must be some unusual reason if the train runs on the Sabbath day. Of course there are many here who would like much to have a Sunday morning newspaper but if they do get one, it must be brought in by automobile from the nearest large town. Most folks though, are content to wait until Monday when the "Shoo-fly" starts chugging again. In addition to the railroad there is a jitney line running to Chester. Many residents of the town own automobiles and therefore there is no trouble getting in and out. Comment on the transportation facilities, however, and the average citizen of Great Falls is likely to tell you that the town is such a good place to live in nobody wants to leave anyhow.  
Among the many other features of which Great Falls has a right to boast is a beautiful moving picture theatre, unquestionably one of the best to be seen in any town in the two Carolinas. Only the best pictures are shown and the house is crowded six days a week at each performance. The theatre is equipped with comfortable opera chairs and a large pipe organ and is one that would be a credit to any town ten times its size.  
The owners of Great Falls and those who live here as well take a lively interest in the school. There are two large school buildings, one for the primary and grammar school grades and the other is the high school building both built on the most modern school plans and equipped with everything needed in the model school. There is a dormitory or teachers' quarters for the teachers employed in the schools, the teachers being located in the main part of town, the building being one of the best of its kind in the state.  
Great Falls has a large postoffice, one bank, a drug store and a good hotel—the Dearborn. The hotel, by the way is named in honor of old Fort Dearborn, the remains of which may be seen on an island in the river near the dam. Old Fort Dearborn is of much historical interest in that it came within one vote of being selected as the site of the United States Military academy, established at West Point, N. Y., in the early part of the last century. Fort Dearborn, a pile of mortar and rocks, slowly crumbling away, is always shown to visitors in the city. The island is rough and rugged and the resident of Great Falls who tells you the story of how near it came to being selected as the site for the national military academy will add

that he doesn't know where they figured on having the drill and parade ground. And the visitor wonders also.  
Visitors to Great Falls are sometimes carried to Rocky Creek power plant, the power station of the company which is located some three miles from Great Falls. The road leading there, which is of sand-clay construction, is known as the "Duke Road." It was built by the Southern Power company for the benefit of employes who necessarily have to visit the several plants of the company located miles apart. The road goes from Great Falls to Wateree in Kershaw county, a distance of some twenty-nine miles. All of the land along the road-sides between Great Falls and the Wateree plant is the property of the Southern Power company. They have imported scores of good farmers into that section and these with the encouragement of the owners are building up and greatly improving what prior to the coming of the company into this section was practically a wilderness country inhabited mostly by creatures of the wild. This "Duke Road" is a model for road builders and the traveler from Chester to Camden or from Camden to Chester who knows of it always goes by the Duke road. Great care is taken to keep it in good repair at all times. It is said that along the road are some several miles of fence. The fence is said to have been built at the instance of James B. Duke, who caused it to be built, not especially because he needed a fence, but for the reason that he wanted to provide employment for his farmers in off seasons.  
Just at the edge of the town of Great Falls is the village known as "Flop Eye."  
"Flop Eye" is entirely independent of Great Falls, although it is said that the power company would like much to own it and has repeatedly tried to buy it. "Flop Eye" territory however, belongs to a few individuals who have persistently refused to sell their holdings, believing that they have a better thing in selling to individuals.  
Inquiry as to how the village of "Flop Eye" got its name, developed that years ago before there was any Great Falls, a man used to run a little store where the village of "Flop Eye" now stands. There was not a great deal of travel and traffic that way then and about the only thing the rural store keeper had to do was to sit in front of his store half asleep or half drunk—there is a division of opinion which.  
Any way a party of young people came that way one afternoon skylarking and were impressed with the sight of the old store keeper sitting dozing and nodding in front of his place of business, too comfortable or too indolent and unconcerned to even raise his head as they came up. Upon their return home one of the young folks was asked where he went on his trip and what he saw and his reply was: "Didn't see nothing but a flop-eyed old man."  
And the place became "Flop Eye."  
Now "Flop Eye" is a hustling village. Lots of people from Great Falls come over and do their trading there. People who want to do business with the people of Great Falls, but who want to be absolutely independent of the owners of the town, have bought lots there and residences have begun to go up. Lots bring big prices comparatively. There is a movement on foot now to incorporate the town. Businesses that are perhaps not wanted in Great Falls are permitted in "Flop Eye." For instance the fellow who runs a pool room and restaurant there, confided to an acquaintance the other day that he had a regular gold mine. As Great Falls grows "Flop Eye" grows.

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**AN ORDINANCE.**  
State of South Carolina,  
County of Kershaw.  
City Council of Camden  
An Ordinance ordering an election submitting to the qualified electors of the city of Camden the question of the issuing of Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) municipal bonds for the purpose of paving streets of the city of Camden, South Carolina.  
Be it ordained by the City Council of Camden, South Carolina, in due session assembled, this 17th day of May, 1922:  
1. That in response to a Petition of the majority (as appears upon the tax books of the said city) of the freeholders of the city of Camden, South Carolina, requesting the ordering of an election for the purpose of the issuance of Two hundred thousand (\$200,000) dollars municipal bonds of the city of Camden, South Carolina, proceeds of same to be used for the purpose of paving the streets of city of Camden, South Carolina, that an election be, and is hereby ordered to be held in the city of Camden, South Carolina, on Tuesday, the 13th day of June, 1922, on the question of issuing Two hundred thousand (\$200,000) dollars coupon bonds of the city of Camden, for the purpose of paving streets of the city of Camden, South Carolina.  
2. That said bonds be issued of the denomination of One thousand (\$1,000) dollars each, and to bear interest at the rate of not more than 5 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually from date of bonds and to mature forty (40) years from the date of the issue, with the privilege of redemption by the city of Camden, South Carolina, after twenty (20) years from the date of said issue. That said Two hundred thousand (\$200,000) dollars of Bonds to be issued either all at one time, or in blocks, at such times and in such blocks as may be hereafter determined by the City Council.  
H. G. CARRISON, Jr., Mayor.  
Attest: H. C. SINGLETON, City Clerk.

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