

Progress in the Building—Ready for the Painter and Glazier—The Factory Village—What Was Done at Tuesday's Meeting.

The stockholders of the Laurens Cotton Mill have decided to increase the capital stock of the mill from two hundred thousand to three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Not many months gone the average Laurens man would have flouted the idea that such a mill would be built in Laurens. Once it seemed that Laurens was not and would never be in the mill building business.

But it is settled now. Already a splendid, four-story structure crowns the big hill in the angle of the Laurens and Newberry and F. R. & W. C. railroads in the eastern part of the city. It is a handsome and substantial building, designed to meet all the requirements for the production of cotton goods, by the best and most economical methods known to modern manufacturing. It is daily nearing completion.

It is the simple truth to say that one may stand by and see the walls of the engine and boiler rooms rise before his eyes.

It is a wonderful sight, the scene of industry at the mill—everything moves at the Laurens Cotton Mill, and under the constant watch of President Lucas, the motion is like clockwork.

The roof is on the building and the floors are laid. In a few days the ceilings will be completed. In a month the painters and glaziers will have finished their labors. When the machinery begins to arrive on November 15th, there'll be no wait. The houses will be ready for it and it will be promptly put in.

Before the closing days of the winter the clack and the clatter and the hum will begin, and a column of black smoke will pour from the mouth of the 150-foot stack. The mill will be in operation. A few yards farther to the east, the hills will be covered with a village of neat cottages. The "town" has been laid out and the construction of the cottages commenced.

THE INCREASE IN CAPITAL.

It came about in this way. The management of the mill, being sensible men, understand that the bigger the mill, the cheaper, proportionately, can it be operated. The investment of \$250,000 was sufficient to convince men with money that it is intended that the Laurens mill shall make money. It was therefore thought, feasible and good policy to put in as big a plant as possible. Comparatively, it will cost little more to place engines and boilers for a \$250,000 mill than for the \$500,000 mill. It will cost relatively little more to equip the larger than the smaller mill. In short, the principle of "division of labor" makes the profit on the investment vastly greater, the bigger the plant.

Anybody then can see that the inclination to take the new stock is much stronger than it was to take the old stock. For with the enlargement of the mill it is certain that the stock will carry very much better dividends. Knowing this, and knowing that the reaction to increase, the company promptly determined to do so.

THE MEETING.

Of stockholders was held at 11 A. M., last Tuesday, in Mr. N. E. Dial's office. Over 1000 shares were represented. Capt. Albert Dial presided, and Dr. J. J. Stimpson was secretary.

The motion of Mr. W. J. Martin, the increase already stated was unanimously carried upon, subscribers to the new stock to come in on the same terms as the original takers. The latter, until November 1st, are to be allowed the privilege of taking the new stock as is usual with all corporations in preference to outsiders. The first installment on the new stock will not be called in before Jan. 1st.

No doubt remains that the additional stock will be subscribed with alacrity. It is generally understood that the progress already made in the enterprise has been remarkably encouraging and satisfactory.

THE BUILDERS.

The fact that Laurens will have her big mill is due, mainly, to the ability displayed by the gentlemen who have been chosen president. Few men could so have impressed investors in the putting in of a plant as to encourage them to double their investment before operations had begun. So far as THE ADVERTISER is aware, there is no parallel to this in the history of cotton mills in South Carolina.

Great credit is the building of the mill is due to Mr. H. S. Chadwick, of Charlotte, N. C., the engineer and architect. Mr. Chadwick thoroughly understands mill building, and what is better, he knows how to design a good building, suited to its purposes, which will not cost a mint of money. No young man in the country is doing more for mill construction in the South than Mr. H. S. Chadwick, and it has been largely through his efforts and influence that northern capitalists have become interested, not only in the Laurens mill, but in various others throughout this section.

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Fri, Feb 3, 2017