

ANTON EXPERIENCED A PROSPEROUS YEAR

Strikes and Other Untoward Events Electric City Shared Generously the Country's Prosperity.

CAUSE FOR PESSIMISTIC VIEWS

one of Business the City Has Ever Known—Failures By Far Losses Less Than Preceding Year—Clearing House Association's Most Gratifying Report—Interviews With Bankers, Real Estate Agents and Manufacturers Which Show That Just Closed Was a Most Successful One and That the Future is Full of Bright Promise.

TON is not going to the bow wows. Not much. Nobody has said she is, but there are those of a naturally optimistic turn of mind, who have been, for some time, harrowed by the fear that the Electric city was in decline; that she had days and that her future was not promising.

There was not a single month of 1901, but what exceeded its corresponding month in 1900 by a good sized margin. In the matter of bank deposits some gratifying figures are also to be had. Despite the fact that three new banks were started during the year each of the nine old banks report a heavy increase in deposits and in nearly every instance the increase was comparatively larger than the preceding year.

The three new banks already average more than a quarter of a million in deposits. The average increased deposits of the nine old banks is \$350,000.

Incidentally, it might be mentioned here, as an evidence of the bankers' faith in Scranton's future, that six of the nine old banks and one of the three new ones have recently built or are about to build handsome new homes for themselves, while another of the old banks contemplates extensive additions and improvements to its building to accommodate its rapidly growing business.

The following is an expression from E. C. Shafer, cashier of the Scranton Savings bank: "The outlook for Scranton's business development is encouraging—much more so than it was a year or two ago. The deposits in our banks have increased at an unprecedented rate. And the result of this increase will sooner or later be reflected in an increasing industrial activity."

"Our tollers in the mines and shops are working steadily at better wages than ever before. Industrial growth has been retarded through fear and because of industrial disturbances. This obstacle to prosperity will be removed when laborer and employer come to realize that their interests are mutual and that friendly co-operation means mutual prosperity. This happy condition seems likely to be realized sooner or later, the initiative along this line having been taken in New York lately, when representatives of labor and industry met in friendly discussion to devise methods of solving the questions that have heretofore been so perplexing."

W. H. Logan, manager, at the request of the Scranton Building Inspector F. L. Brown, the past year has been an exceedingly brisk one in the building line, the total value of buildings erected being almost twice the value of those erected in 1900.

The following table shows the number of permits taken out for each month during the past year and the value of the buildings for which they were taken out, as compared with similar figures for the year 1900:

Table titled 'Increase 1893 over 1894' showing various percentages for different years.

General Conditions.

JAMES A. LANSING, president of the board of trade—"The reports from all sections of the country show that the industrial development and volume of business done in 1901 are the greatest in our history."

"The amount of money paid out in Scranton is the largest in many years, and while the volume of business done has been considerably in excess of many previous years, it has fallen much below what the commercial conditions of the country should warrant."

Industrial development and progress in Scranton have lagged. Contentions, strikes have made capital timid, labor restless and values feverish and unsettled. Our capitalists, instead of investing money at home, have sought other fields for investment. Real estate has depreciated in value, and manufacturers seeking new locations to establish plants, have been frightened away from our city.

I believe that a change is near at hand, when the professional agitator—whose job is gone when industrial peace and harmony prevail—will be compelled to retire to the background, where he belongs."

SAUEL SAMTER—"The year 1901 was the best in the clothing business in Scranton of any of the thirty-one years of our experience in this line of trade, and from my observation I would confidently say that all the leading houses in this line can make a similar report. There never has been such a volume of trade, and what is more indicative of prosperity, the demand from all classes has been for a better grade of goods than ever heretofore had been buying."

Building Statistics. According to figures compiled by Building Inspector F. L. Brown, the past year has been an exceedingly brisk one in the building line, the total value of buildings erected being almost twice the value of those erected in 1900.

Table showing Building Statistics for 1901 and 1900, including permits and valuation.

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Table showing Post Office Figures for various years.

any one who may be dubious as to the future of Scranton's prosperity: R. ERNEST COMEGYS—gladly join in saying something that may kill the false impression abroad that Scranton is not prosperous. Whoever heard of a prosperous community which does not have some labor troubles? Pittsburgh, the second wealthiest and by far the most prosperous city in our state, if not in the United States, is the home of the Strikes never occur in "graveyard cities."

Scranton is prosperous. Ten years ago we had but 73,000 people. Today we have over 100,000. Where is there another city showing a larger percentage of growth? Think of the improvements going on at this time here. The Merchants' and Mechanics' bank building, of which there is none better and more beautiful in the country; the First National bank building on Lackawanna avenue, the third richest bank in America; the Title Guaranty and Trust company's beautiful new building on Spruce street; the largest and most up-to-date city office building in the state outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, if not the most mechanical buildings of that tremendous institution, the National Text Book company, said to be the largest of its kind to be found anywhere, and many other important enterprises. The Connell building when completed will afford more offices than any office building in the state outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. If our indications mean anything, we are soon to have the great Pennsylvania railroad unloading its passengers near the heart of our city. Rich and new trolley companies are ready to take possession of our streets as soon as councils give the word. These are the things that should inspire faith in the future of Scranton.

The real cause of the decline in the prices of real estate here is not far to see. The same cause exists all over the country with a few exceptions. History is repeating itself. There are two important channels through which money is invested, one is real estate and the other is the central district, business and manufacturing. For the past several years industries in this country have been prospering and profitable, consequently people have been putting their money into them. Scranton real estate is as low as it will ever be. Reports from other cities indicate that the tide of investments are in favor of real estate, as well as this time, and the immediate future."

It is true that our merchants have had good reasons to complain of the falling off of business during the past few months, but they will lose nothing by it in the end. The money still remains in the valley and will eventually come back to the city. As long as Scranton is the central district, business and manufacturing, for the past several years industries in this country have been prospering and profitable, consequently people have been putting their money into them. Scranton real estate is as low as it will ever be. Reports from other cities indicate that the tide of investments are in favor of real estate, as well as this time, and the immediate future."

W. T. HACKETT—I believe the future of our city, socially, intellectually, financially and I hope, morally, will far surpass its brilliant past. The immediate past has been very dark and the effect has been very depressing and depressing. But the clouds are lifting and the sunshine of prosperity is beginning to shine, and before the new year's day we will witness the trials of 1901 and 1902 in the grateful contemplation of what 1902 has wrought and the brighter prospects for 1903.

I believe there is a great future ahead of us, because our city today is a giant in its great strength and wealth of resources as compared with a few years ago. What city of our size, and the banking strength that we have? What inland city can offer greater advantages to manufacturers than Scranton? But to my mind our greatest strength lies in the fact that today we have an army of noble young men and women, graduates of our public and private schools, who are ready and anxious to place Scranton in the forefront of American cities. With the superior educational advantages of our young people added to the wisdom and wealth of their parents, are they not better prepared to grapple with and solve the moral, social, political, commercial and financial problems of the future? Can there be any question as to the results? Assuredly not, if you have any doubt as to the material that our young people are made of, just pick out a few of the bright young people among the many hundreds, yes thousands, in our city today, and watch their career during the next ten years. With such an array of young Morgans, Deveys and Roosevelts, as we doubtless have right here in our midst, the glorious future of our city is assured. Again, by way of encouragement, one of our young merchants informs me that his holiday trade was double that of a year ago, and that from present indications, he will have to move into larger quarters to accommodate his increasing business."

As for the real estate business, I would say that unless our moneyed men and contractors get together and build more modern houses and flats, we will have to erect tents shortly to supply the demand. New comers and young married people are boarding because they cannot find suitable apartments for housekeeping. We need also to have erected, for sale, a number of medium-priced, modern houses that can be purchased on easy monthly payments. We need also more factory space with power. I had a call last week from a silk manufacturer looking for mill space with power. We need also several more large up-to-date, boarding houses like the Naah and Holland."

Real Estate. That there has been a decline in real estate values can be no gainsaid. That the decline has by no means been a sharp one, and that there is an immediate future for real estate in Scranton, is a certainty. Appended are some interesting views on this subject that should go far towards inspiring confidence in

CHARLES SCHLAGER—"The year 1901, I believe, has been to most business men, and thousands of workmen of this city a prosperous year. Who might have been so bold as to say that the people here were free from strikes and boycotts as in the days of yore! Under normal conditions we would undoubtedly have ranked as the greatest and most successful city of its size in the land. Unfortunately the labor troubles struck us like a terrible cyclone and to such an extent checked the year's prosperity."

PERMITS FOR THE MONTH

HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY INSPECTOR BROWN.

One of Them Was for the New Printery of the International Text-Book Company Which Will Cost More Than \$250,000—The Permits Cost \$128—Permits Were Issued for the Erection of a Number of New Dwelling Houses and Repairs of Others.

A building permit for the most expensive building on the books of the Building Inspector's department was issued yesterday by Building Inspector Brown to the International Text-Book company for the mammoth printery to be erected on Wyoming avenue for the International Correspondence schools.

The building will be 167x400 feet in size and will cost \$250,000. It will be three stories high and will be built of brick. The permit cost the company \$128. The other permits issued during the month thus ended were as follows: James J. Hart, Sixteenth street, alteration. J. R. Farr, Fair avenue, 22x25, two-story frame dwelling. Emil Pauli, Meadow street, addition. Charles Doherty, Washington avenue, alteration and repair. M. F. Howley, Anthony street, barn. H. D. Jenkins, East Market street, 80x54, green house. A. E. Hunt, Lackawanna avenue, alteration. The Washington, Williams & Co., Meridian street, 34x52, stable and shed. St. Mark's Lutheran church, Washington street, alteration and repair. M. E. Bean, Lafayette street, stable and shop. F. A. Kizer, Brown avenue, dwelling. Luther Keller, West Lackawanna avenue, 21x 80, storehouse. Sproule Brothers, Linden street, five two-story houses, 21x28. Elizabeth House, Boulevard, barn. Jacob Fries, Prescott avenue, alteration. Nelson, Morris & Co., Eighth street, barn. Say Aug Lumber company, Rundle avenue, two-story dwelling, 18x25. H. A. Knifford, Prescott avenue, single dwelling, two stories, 28x25. Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad company, North Main avenue, addition. Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad company, near Dodge mines, 16x43, boiler house. Mrs. Jane Jones, Bromley avenue, two-story dwelling, 15x40. James Kern, Elizabeth street, two-story single dwelling, 18x30. J. B. Jones, Luzerne street, single dwelling, 16x26. Christal Court, Ninth street, three-story flat, 30x45. P. F. Corrigan, Fourth street, carriage house and dwelling, two stories. August Blair, South Irving avenue, two-story addition. Charles C. Miller, Short avenue, two-story double house, 30x38. J. W. Alworth, Providence road, two-story single dwelling. Frank Hazard, Dickson avenue, alteration. Charles Du Pont Brock, trustee, Beach street, alteration and repair. Mrs. Mary Coggins, Linden street, double house, 31x45. E. V. Fitch, Boulevard, ice house. Gomer Thomas, Rundle avenue, club house, 12x16. Mary Haggerty, Bennett street, two-story single dwelling. Tisdler Real Estate company, Harrison avenue, two-story single dwelling. F. A. Kizer, Brown avenue, two two-story dwellings, 24x25. International Text Book company, printery, 167 1/2 x 400, 850,000.

The above list is not quite complete so that the total figures cannot be given.

ALL WILL BE HARMONY.

Organization of the Poor Board on Friday. The Scranton poor board will reorganize on Friday afternoon and from present indications there will be no contests for any of the offices. Reese G. Brooks will undoubtedly succeed himself as president, and C. Joseph Gillespie will be unopposed for secretary. E. M. Vernoy, the collector of taxes, has intimated that he has no special wish to succeed himself and for this reason Harry G. Dale has become a candidate for this place and will probably be elected, as there is no opposing candidate in the field. Ambrose Herz will be given another term as treasurer and George Eeemer, who has given such splendid satisfaction as superintendent of the Hillside Home, will be re-elected unanimously.

A POLICE INSPECTION.

Revolvers and Other Paraphernalia to be Looked Over. Superintendent of Police Louis Day yesterday issued an order providing for an inspection of all police paraphernalia on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The members of the force will assemble at that hour and particular care will be taken in inspecting their revolvers. Any weapons which are not in good order will be condemned and their owners furnished with new ones.

LIST OF ADVERTISED LETTERS.

- List of letters remaining on hand in the Scranton postoffice, Lackawanna county, Pa., Jan. 1, 1902. Persons calling for their letters will please say advertised and give date of list. Enza H. Hippie, postmaster.