

Harrisburg in 1914

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some effect on building the coming twelve months, as those forced out of homes in the Eighth ward will seek residence elsewhere.

NEW CHURCHES.

One of the large structures now in course of erection is the Mechanics National Bank at Third and Market streets, which will be completed about April 1st, and the Moorhead knitting mill is another model structure that may be regarded as a 1914 product, since it was completed and dedicated during the early part of the present year.

Neither must one overlook the beautifully designed and in other ways model factory of the Elliott-Fisher Typewriter Company in South Harrisburg, especially since it is currently reported that another such building is to be built shortly by the same firm, due to the rapid increase of its business both at home and abroad.

AT STEELTON.

But Harrisburg will have to take a back seat to Steelton in the way of new buildings. It is of current report that nearly \$4,000,000 is to be spent there by the Pennsylvania Steel Company in the way of improvements and enlargements. Already the company has put into use this year one of its new furnaces and its new office buildings. This was followed only a day or two ago by the announcement that the company has asked that the tenants of fifty houses on the West Side be vacated in order to give space to a new mill and the extension of the company's railroad shifting yards.

That adds to the joy of the real estate men of both this city and Steelton as the fifty families must find quarters elsewhere and new dwellings will have to be built, as every house in Steelton and practically every one in Harrisburg is now occupied.

SCHOOL AND CHURCHES.

The year 1914 will see the erection of several large churches in Harrisburg and others are making preparations along the same line. The latest to make an announcement of the kind is the Messiah Lutheran church, which will put up a building to cost not less than \$150,000 as soon as a proper site can be obtained. A large sum of the necessary money has been raised.

The Bethel A. M. E. church, one of those within the Capitol Park zone, has taken out a permit for the erection of an edifice to cost \$10,000 at Ash and Briggs streets, and the work will start with the opening of spring.

St. Lawrence German Catholic church is another within the park zone that must soon look for a new home. Wherever it goes will go the expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars, for the congregation will in all likelihood include in the plant to be built a parish house, parochial school and residence as well as church.

The Harrisburg school board has plans made for a new school on Allison Hill and this will unquestionably be built this year, beginning early in the spring. The new structure will contain besides a gymnasium and domestic science rooms, an auditorium intended for social center work in the evenings. The school house will embrace all of the very late ideas in educational work.

NOT ALL IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

But not all of the work for the upbuilding of Harrisburg in 1914 can be reckoned in dollars and cents. There is for instance, the Chamber of Commerce, a new and efficient body which has taken the place of the old Board of Trade. This body is planning a campaign of advertising that will bring the advantages of Harrisburg as a manufacturing, and more particularly as a distributing center, and desirable place of residence before every community in the country. Eventually the city will reap its reward from this in business and money, but at present it is educational and constructive instead of being immediately profitable from a cash standpoint.

There is also in the West End a very lively civic body known as the West End Improvement Association, which has for its purpose the construction of subways beneath the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Division street and other points, but at the first named place especially. The West Enders will during the year take up many subjects for the betterment of the large and rapidly extending section of the city which they so well represent.

The Church Federation's activities come along the same line. The members are aiming at a "dry" town, free from vice and strong in church membership. The new Federation promises to be very busy during 1914.

The school board will renew its agitation for a new high school, in an attempt to educate the voters up to the passage of a loan sufficiently large to enable the directors to erect a building commensurate with the needs of the city. Another old theme that has been renewed is the erection of a new hotel, this time by New York capital, largely, and with no local boosting. It looks better than any one of the schemes so far suggested along this line.

The city will have at least two gatherings of size here this year—the Odd Fellows of the State and the Pennsylvania Firemen's Association. They give the hotel project interest, in view of the fact that we are going to have difficulty in caring for our visitors. The Central Pennsylvania Methodist conference will meet here in March.

Home-building will continue throughout the year, but on a somewhat limited scale. Contractors and builders say the outlook is good but they see no "boom" in sight anywhere and they will be content if the year is as good as that of 1913.

All told Harrisburg has not much to worry about during 1914 and very much to be thankful for. No matter how times may go with other communities we are in a measure assured of being able to provide work for all who want it and the outlook is good for a fairly prosperous twelve months which is about all that any municipality has a right to expect in times as unsettled as these.

Men Storm Church and Demand Place to Sleep

New York, Feb. 28.—Several hundred men out of employment marched to the Second Avenue Baptist Church, near Tenth street, last night and, interrupting a prayer meeting, demanded that they be allowed to sleep in the church for the night. Their attitude was so threatening that the sexton telephoned for the police while the pastor, the Rev. R. F. Pierce, was parleying with them. They were persuaded to go away by the police, who threatened to make wholesale arrests.

The advance on the church followed, according to the police, a mass meeting held late yesterday. The men decided to go to a different church each night and demand shelter. The Second Avenue Church was selected as the first point of attack.

Natural History Society Field Excursion to Top of Rockville Mountain



The above group represents one of the many field trips taken last summer by the Natural History Society. The trips are taken bi-weekly and accompanying every party there are always several "leaders," each of whom is thoroughly familiar with some particular kind of outdoor life, such as wild flowers, birds, trees, rocks, etc. The main work of the Natural History Society is carried on in its section meetings, of which there are held each month in the Willard school building. Varied programs are presented, covering many phases of plant and animal life, geology, astronomy, physics and chemistry. A broader educational phase of the Natural History Society's activities is found in the monthly free public lectures on scientific and geographical topics by out-of-town speakers eminent in their chosen field, held in the Technical High School auditorium. The qualifications for membership in this live organization are an interest in natural history and payment of the annual dues. The board of officers for 1914 are: President, Wm. R. Denehy; first vice-president, Boyd P. Rothrock; second vice-president, Prof. Wm. M. Fahnstock; treasurer, Miss Alice E. Gingham; corresponding secretary, Prof. James J. Hamaker; recording secretary, Prof. J. F. Rees.

HARRISBURG SCHOOLS WILL SHOW DEVELOPMENT IN 1914

THE year 1914 will see another marked increase in the public school enrollment of Harrisburg. Another attempt will be made to get the new high school building project launched and a new grade school embracing all the latest features in school construction—not to mention a social center assembly room—will be erected on Allison Hill. This is designed to meet the rapid growth of the eastern section of the city.

The total school enrollment during the year just passed was 10,813; average number belonging, 9,871; average daily attendance, 8,842; percentage attendance, 91. The total high school enrollment was 1,211, of which number 605 were boys and 606 were girls. The Central high school enrollment was 918 and the Technical high school 293. The teachers' training school enrolled 37.

During the year the Central high school losses were 146; the Technical high school losses, 52. The extent of losses in the former institution is unusual, being no doubt due to the unsatisfactory physical conditions existing there during the past year.

This shows the last educational problem with which the School Board has to deal and the large number of pupils seeking instruction. In this connection figures for the past decade, illustrating the increase of attendance, has required the constant building of new schools, may be interesting. The following statistics show this growth: In 1903-04, 8,549; 1904-05, 9,529; 1905-06, 9,701; 1906-07, 9,345; 1907-08, 9,818; 1908-09, 10,094; 1909-10, 10,611; 1911-12, 10,561; 1912-13, 10,813. The loss in enrollment during 1913 was due to the change in the time of closing the school year, as provided by the new school code. The above statistics indicate a continuous and healthy growth, though not an unusual one.

High School Needs
The high school conditions are such as to make the early construction of a new building almost imperative. So much has been said of this that it need not be mentioned. The Technical high school, however, is a model of its kind and its size and importance will be given a proper setting when the new Capitol Park extension is completed.

Open-Air Schools
Another feature of Harrisburg public education is the plan of open-air study, there being two such schools now in operation. A special committee was appointed in the fall of 1911 to visit certain eastern cities for the purpose of studying open-air schools and gathering data bearing upon the general problem of caring for tubercular children in the schools. The first outcome of the committee's investigation and report was the establishment in September, 1912, of an open-air school in the old Lochiel building. In planning this school an effort was made to incorporate the best features of the various institutions visited by the committee, as a result of which we are able to boast of a thoroughly equipped and up-to-date school.

Accommodations were at first provided for an enrollment of twenty-five, but before the year closed it became necessary to provide for a larger number and to supply an assistant teacher. A total of thirty-nine pupils were enrolled during the year, thirty-four of whom were enrolled when the school closed in June. Even so, the facilities, however, were insufficient to meet the needs of the district, and another school has been opened.

Upon entering the schools pupils

are supplied with individual blankets, soapstones, towels, wash cloths and tooth brushes. They are given light lunches at 10.15 and 12.15, consisting principally of milk and egg preparations in varied forms. Their car fare, when necessary, is furnished by the Associated Charities in the case of Christmas Red Cross funds. Careful medical attention is given to each pupil by the medical inspector and physically alert and the general temperature are carefully noted and recorded. In fact, no detail in a pupil's physical interests is overlooked. The average gain in weight of pupils who enrolled prior to January 1, and who were therefore in attendance six months or over, was 7 pounds. The greatest individual gain was 13.4 pounds, and in practically all cases tested the condition of the blood improved, the hemoglobin in some instances increasing from 15 to 20 per cent. Pupils have become mentally and physically alert and the general condition of most of them has greatly improved. The teacher also reports that pupils are in better condition at the end of the day than at the beginning.

Reports from parents are also gratifying. One mother states that her son's health was better during the past year than in any previous year of his life. The family physician is delighted with this improvement. Reports are general to the effect that pupils are very much better at night than they did before entering the open-air school.

Most pupils enjoy their work thoroughly. The rest period gives opportunity for necessary relaxation, after which they are ready and anxious to

New Idea Hosiery Company

The New Idea Hosiery Company, South Fourth street, is only one of Harrisburg's youngest and most prosperous industries, but it may be said to have attracted the attention of industrial experts all over the country by its economic claim to represent the most advanced ideas of manufacturing and distribution to be met with anywhere.

The name of the company "New Idea" is more than justified by its business methods, which are a distinct break away from tradition, as well as by introduction of many far reaching advanced ideas in its manufactured product.

The company was incorporated in August, 1911, and started business January 22, 1912, succeeding to the established business of the Weikert Hosiery Company of which W. C. Starr was proprietor. Mr. Starr going with the new company as president and managing director.

Mr. Starr's asset as it was upon the success of his somewhat revolutionary plans, he carried out under his personal direction, that the success of the company depended.

The authorized capital of the company is \$100,000.00. On December 31st last, exactly one-half of one-half of it issued. The company had just finished a record year's trading. Sales over \$1,200,000 and in the two months paid to its stockholders from net earnings 14 per cent in dividends besides carrying over \$5,000.

Such are the bare facts—some of the broad details must necessarily be interesting. For instance, outside of Mr. Starr's personal holdings, the capital stock is held, not, as might be supposed, by private investors interested only in obtaining a return on their investment, but by retail men's furnurers in almost every leading city in the United States, Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and some parts of Indiana.

Every Stockholder Merchant becomes a partner on a special profit-sharing basis in the finished product which he purchases. The advantages of the special proposition to the merchant are such that it pays him to advertise and popularize the new idea. The company has the advantage of advertising to do, yet gets the benefit of the sale of the finished product.

Little direct business from the stockholder dealers and thus the output is assured but GUARANTEED. It is obvious that this makes the company much more independent of fluctuations of trade than its competitors.

But there is another aspect. The goods must be light. The other essential feature therefore is scientific management and supervision in the manufacture of the finished product which will hold its own in the finished market. That the New Idea Hosiery does this is conclusively proven by the fact that in the far West and South—that is, in the districts not worked by the stockholder Merchant plan, the line is handled by the largest buyer in preference to all other makes, and the demand for the goods to-day is far ahead of the powers of their mills to supply.

The New Idea Factory on Fourteenth street, is a large three-story "daylight" building with a floor space of 15,000 square feet. Over one hundred and fifty machines are in daily operation. The company makes a full line of men's and women's hosiery in cotton, silk and silk. It employs more than a hundred workers. Two branch out-of-town mills are also operated, which give employment to over fifty people.

begin again. A few, however, have been found to be physically unable to do much. These have been subjects of special care, everything possible, under the circumstances, having been done for them. The lunch periods also give change and diversion. Pupils assist in setting the table and in removing and washing the dishes. In fact, they have learned to be very tidy housekeepers. Many of them go home able to tell their parents how to make cocoa and puddings and soups of various kinds. These incidental lessons in domestic science are no small item in estimating the value of the school.

The following, a typical weekly menu, will doubtless prove interesting, the average cost per pupil per day being about 6 1/2 cents:

Monday—10.15, cream of tomato soup, toast; 12.15, farina pudding, toast, cocoa.

Tuesday—10.15, macaroni soup, toast; 12.15, cornstarch or tapioca pudding, toast, cocoa.

Wednesday—10.15, milk, eggs; 12.15, vegetable soup or baked macaroni, toast, cocoa.

Thursday—10.15, lentil soup, toast; 12.15, cream of wheat pudding, toast, cocoa.

Friday—10.15, cream of pea soup, toast; 12.15, rice pudding, toast, cocoa.

The matter of industrial education has been frequently discussed and will

YEAR 1914 BRINGS CITY CHEAPER GAS

The opening of the year 1914 brought with it a very welcome announcement by the Harrisburg Gas Company to the effect that henceforth this city is to have dollar gas. Up to that time the price had been \$1.10. This reduction is expected to greatly increase the use of gas in the city, especially during the summer time for fuel purposes.

The gas company has been steadily cutting rates for the past six or eight years, cutting down the price as rapidly as increased consumption made a reduction possible. A year ago the cost was reduced to large consumers, but they did not come under the head of the 1914 decrease.

Under the new rates all consumers of gas up to 10,000 feet are charged \$1 per 1,000 cubic feet; for the next 20,000 feet, 90 cents; for the next 20,000 feet 80 cents, and all over 50,000 feet, 70 cents. This applies to all residential consumers. In the county districts the rates are \$1.05 per 1,000 cubic feet up to 10,000 feet; 95 cents for the next 20,000, 85 cents for the next 20,000, and 75 cents for all over 50,000 feet.

There is a minimum charge of 50 cents per meter per month, owing to the fact that over 5,000 consumers burn less than 30 cents' worth a month. This charge is made as low as could be consistently done and maintain the service. Elsewhere the minimum charge is about 50 cents a month, and in some cases \$1. Most electric consumers have a minimum charge of \$1 per month.

It is a comparatively few years but nevertheless a long cry back in point of results since the old Harrisburg Gas Company first attempted to install domestic and industrial gas operated equipment in Harrisburg homes and factories. The number of the consumers was at that time extremely limited and gas sold for just twice what it brings to-day—\$2 per 1,000 cubic feet. It is interesting to note in this respect that while the price of coal has steadily increased, the cost of gas to the consumers has been cut in half.

In 1883 the local gas company first went into the business of selling gas for the home. It did a total business of exactly four ranges for that year and congratulated itself upon this as a splendid achievement. To-day, thirty-one years thereafter, there are a total of about 15,000 ranges served, with gas daily from the Harrisburg plant, and while the price of gas has gone down and the service has been very much improved,

the gas range has been remarkably developed in point of efficiency, economy and quality of material and workmanship. The first gas ranges sold here were little more than gas burners so constructed as to permit of the housewife using them for cooking purposes. To-day, the gas range is as scientifically perfect as it is possible to make, combining a minimum of gas burned with a maximum of heat attained, and rivaling in elaborate equipment and wearing qualities any heating device known.

The popularity of gas stoves and gas water heaters is illustrated very well by the fact that fully one-fourth of the houses now constructed in Harrisburg are provided with no other means for cooking or heating water. On cold days in autumn or as an auxiliary in parts of houses little used or very much exposed, gas logs and the gas heaters are growing steadily in popularity.

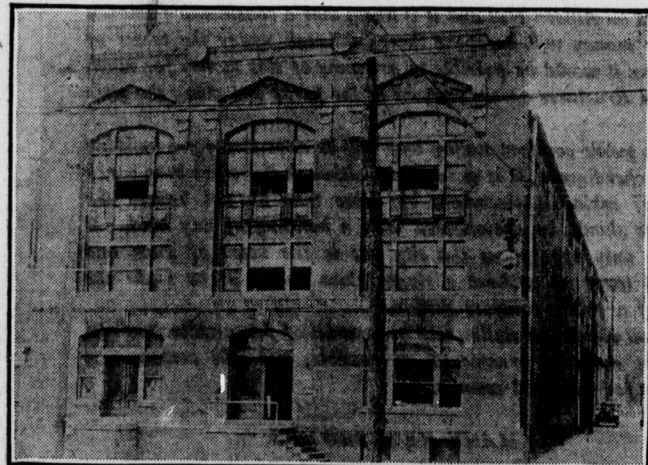
But it is in industrial lines, perhaps, that the greatest progress has been made in the education first of the public to the advantages of the gas as a fuel. As an instance of the extent to which this form of heating has grown, it was announced to-day by a gas company official that he is at present arranging to install in a local manufacturing concern two gas appliances which it is estimated will consume each about 700 feet an hour, and there are other concerns drawing their gas from the local plant that use as much as 1,000 feet an hour.

These firms find it profitable to use gas in such large quantities for the reason that it gives them the advantages of cleanliness and even heat and does away with a large amount of unskilled labor. They figure that in the end they have better service at an expense which compares favorably with that of any other fuel they might use.

Gas is now used as a fuel in printing offices for large baking ovens, big foundry furnaces, in all manner of intricate tool tempering processes and, in fact, in every industry where the highest point of efficiency is demanded. The use of gas is growing more rapidly now than ever before. The reduction in price noted herewith has added fresh impetus to the business. More houses than ever are being equipped for it and there is scarcely an industry in Harrisburg or vicinity that does not use it to some extent, and most of them are figuring on gas equipment that will add to their efficiency and reduce their expenditures.

be taken up again this year. Its installation is regarded as assured at an early date. Especially is this important in the grammar grades. The Technical high school now provides industrial opportunities for those boys who are able to continue their education into the high school. In a new general high school like opportunities will be provided for the girls.

Evans-Burnett Company Wholesale Grocers



Fourteenth Year of a Business Which Has Enjoyed a Steady Growth

Forging ahead steadily and rapidly, the Evans-Burnett Company marks the fourteenth year of their existence as one of the most successful wholesale grocery firms in the State.

Started in Rink Building, starting fourteen years ago in the rink building in Chestnut street, now occupied by the Central Automobile company, the company was composed of Mahlon Evans and Charles W. Burnett.

For eight years, they conducted a steadily increasing business, until the quarters then occupied became so cramped and congested, that it was decided upon to erect a new building. Work was accordingly started in the Spring of 1908 on a large plot in South Second street, measuring 210 feet by sixty feet, and before the next winter, they were installed in their new home. The building itself is one to be proud of. It is a three story brick structure equipped with all the modern conveniences of this business, besides having 50,000 feet of floor space which is entirely taken up in

the handling of trade and merchandise.

Rapid Growth of the Business
After the complete installation of the business, the increase in trade became so great that extra employees were taken into service, two large automobile trucks were added to the delivery facilities. At the present time, the company operates three large automobile trucks, and four teams. Twenty-eight persons are employed in addition to the road salesmen.

The Evans-Burnett Company handle only the highest grade goods, and their assortment is one of the best in Central Pennsylvania. They have the exclusive agency of many of the nationally advertised foods and food-stuffs.

Their operations not only include the city and immediate vicinity, but also towns in a radius of from ten to seventy-five miles. Their reputation for prompt and efficient service has won for them an enviable name, and brought them an ever increasing trade.