

DEVELOPING A TOWN

HOW THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF FAIRMONT, W. VA., WERE UTILIZED.

Being Started There in 1892 Resulted in Changing a Struggling Village into a Lively Town of Seven Thousand Inhabitants.

The most positive sign of the prosperity of Fairmont, W. Va., today is the fact that the Fairmont Developing Company, which headed the boom started there in 1892, is about closing up its business after disposing of all its holdings. With the advantages of a share in a good sized oil boom, the Mannington field, some of the best coal veins in the state and natural advantages, handled by enterprising business men, the town in a few years has sprung from a struggling village to a lively city of 7,000 inhabitants, interests of startling proportions and a list of new buildings during 1901 which figure close to \$1,000,000.

Fairmont dates back to the early fifties as a stage station on the road from Morgantown to the east. In 1852 the present suspension bridge across the Monongahela river was built to take the place of ford and ferry, but the town figured only as a sleepy country village, where the people existed in that mysterious way which to this day puzzles all who are used to the bustle of a big city.

Clinging to the steep hillsides, almost at the headwaters of the Monongahela river, Fairmont was an ideal model of Sleepy Hollow, with court day as its wildest excitement or the possible advent of a small circus or a show. Even the surrounding country was poor, the farmers having good lands, but no ready money to work them.

Then came the oil and gas excitement in the Mannington field, close at hand, and Fairmont profited by it. Money began to come in, coal was discovered and operations were begun, and before Fairmont could realize the changed conditions the boom started, gathering like a snowball until it reached proportions that now surprise the people of the place.

The organization of the Fairmont Development company, with such men as J. E. Watson, O. S. McKinney, C. L. Smith, C. W. Arnett and Samuel R. Nuzum at its head, was the opening wedge of prosperity for Fairmont. The Fairmont Coal company organized and began operations, the farmers began to get money for their coal and to invest it in their farms or in real estate in the town. Business increased steadily, and with the increase a town of modern buildings grew up. Today Fairmont has modern buildings, paved streets, electric street car lines, a long list of hotels—and still not enough water supply—electricity, gas, railroads in all directions, enough manufactures and mines to make it possible for its residents to claim truthfully that there isn't a man in town who wants to work who can't get work, and very shortly slack water navigation on the Monongahela river will add more to the town.

Coal is the principal product of the section. In the field the Fairmont company has now fifty shafts open, taking out a fine grade of coal, nearly all of which goes to the lakes or to tidewater, and with all that is being mined there are still thousands of acres of coal land in Marion county untouched, but most of it sold.

The mining operations include half a dozen towns, among them Montana, Monongah, New England, Chieftain and Beechwood, typical mining towns, but all centering about Fairmont and adding all of 5,000 people to the town's population of 7,000.

The mining equipment is modern and capable of turning out the greatest capacity. Some of the coal is made into coke, but every bushel of it is shipped by rail and goes through the yards at Fairmont, where the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad company has laid out a good sized yard and weighing apparatus, which, big as it is, is sometimes taxed to handle the output of the mines.

Besides the coal operations, Fairmont is a growing manufacturing town, with a nice list of factories, and one of the first things which will be done by the new board of trade, now being organized, will be to encourage the location of more factories. The town offers advantages in the way of good sites, coal, gas, railroad facilities and an ever growing market.

The town is picturesquely situated on the banks of the river, clinging to the steep slopes in long lines of houses, the modern cottage sandwiched in with the quaint old, half colonial or nondescript styles of fifty years ago. Old and new touch elbows, as in every other old town that has recently waked up. No prettier town can be found on the river, and in spite of the fact that part of the town seems to hang on to the hillside by sheer good luck there are many level streets and but few with heavy grades.

In the business section many fine buildings line the streets. The county courthouse, a splendid new building, fronts on Main street. A new opera house is almost completed, and next to the courthouse workmen are building the foundations for a six story building which will be the largest and finest in the town. This site, one of the most desirable in the town, cost the owners \$100,000, or \$1,000 a foot front, while other property in the business section runs from \$500 to \$800 per foot front, building lots in the resident district being anywhere from \$300 to \$1,200.

The residence section of late date consists mostly of fine houses far above the average of the usual inland city. They lie wide graded and paved streets, but so far there has been no effort at uniformity, and the result is a haphazardness of the town's

ON THE RIGHT COURSE.

Building Improvements Contemplated by Towns and Cities.

It is intensely gratifying to find a number of American cities and towns considering broad plans for improving their appearance, says the Worcester Spy. It is being realized more and more that the construction of a good building here and there does not necessarily mean much so far as the general aspect of a city is concerned. The moment, however, that the relations of buildings to one another begin to be considered by any city or town there is reason to believe that it is on the right course.

Commissioners have been abroad from the city of Washington to study the cities of the old world in order that they might give to the nation's capital the best possible designs for adding to its beauty. Cleveland, O., a city whose residence section is as beautiful as the business section is ugly, is now considering a plan for grouping public buildings, including the federal, municipal and library buildings, to form when the scheme is realized a "grand court of honor." Several new buildings must be built soon, and very wisely it is being considered how each building may best add to the effect of others. Eventually a considerable portion of Cleveland where the buildings, with certain exceptions, are old and bad must be made over, and the present movement toward harmonious arrangement of public buildings, if it is successful, may have an effect reaching further than its advocates dream.

The Chicago exposition has perhaps been the most potent influence toward creating better thought about building that has ever been felt in this country. The Pan-American exposition at Buffalo is also full of suggestion. What these expositions will eventually bring about for American cities and towns is past comprehension. All of the American cities and towns can do much for themselves when once they think more broadly upon questions concerning their adornment. If it is reprehensible for a person to be careless about his appearance, it is infinitely more so for a city or town to be indifferent as to its appearance.

The next fifty years should be a period of rebuilding wherever wrong principles were followed in the first place and particularly where no principle at all was followed. Many a mayor or earl distinction by inaugurating a wise movement for giving beauty to his municipality. The old that is good should be spared and honored. The old that is bad should make room for something better. The thought as to what the leading cities in this great and fertile land may make of themselves is indeed stirring. The time should not be far distant when Europeans coming to these shores must acknowledge that we have cities and towns that appeal just as strongly to the artistic sense as any in their own countries.

It isn't a safe plan to print one advertisement and then wait to see how it works before printing another one.

What Plutarch said of fame can easily be said of advertising—"Good fame is like fire; when you have kindled it, you may easily preserve it, but if you once extinguish it you will not easily kindle it again."

WHERE BEAUTY PAYS.

Appearance of Paris Worth Millions to Her People.

A large number of people—the majority, in fact—have no consciousness of the desirability of beauty in a city or town, says Charles Coffin in World's Work. With them the highest consideration is the convenience or discomfort of the city life, and in this respect such enormous improvements have been made within recent years that the city seems to represent everything that could be desired. "What is this beauty anyway?" they exclaim.

Perhaps they were in Paris during the exposition, when the omnibus system proved itself entirely inadequate to accommodate the crowds who wished to be carried. They came home and railed against the miseries of it and extolled the superiority of their own system and rapid transit, though the latter is not without its drawbacks. Then they did not have a decent steak all the time they were in Paris, and the oysters—but the foreigners don't know what oysters are. Every time it is the conveniences and comforts or the lack of them upon which they harp.

The dignity or beauty of Paris, while it cannot have escaped their notice at the time, has not been brought home in their hearts as a thing that it would be desirable to emulate in New York. Yet if they had learned from the foreigners any wrinkle that would improve their own business they would be quick to adopt it.

Yet may not this same beauty be just such a wrinkle? I think it is worth to the Parisians about \$200,000,000 a year. Paris caters for the world, and its main store in trade is its beauty, which it keeps on increasing, and the treasures of its works of art. Poor, impoverished Italy! Where would she be today if it were not for the beauty of her cities, much of it created 400 or 500 years ago, on which she is now gathering a dividend of \$90,000,000 annually?

OBNOXIOUS POSTERS.

A Good Newspaper Advertisement Worth an Acre of Them.

Paris can stand it no longer, and now some of her most distinguished artists are up in arms at the disfiguration of the streets by posters in the crude horrors of colors which greet the eye in the streets of the city, says Newsperdom. M. Edouard Detaille, the famous painter of military subjects, it is said, is particularly incensed on account of the enormous flaring posters of Barnum's circus that have been flooding Paris for weeks past.

A good, sensible, well displayed advertisement in any first class newspaper is worth an acre of penny plain and tuppence colored paper spread over dead walls or hid away in the nooks and corners of any big city. Every person reads the newspaper—at least on this side of the Atlantic—nowadays, and they are pretty close readers, too, and it is not reasonable to think that they can be influenced to buy additional tickets because in the crude horrors of colors they see circus horses and acrobats in impossible positions or buy more oil because they perceive some very sickly looking geese following a very stupid looking kid.

In many quarters there has been a disposition evinced to dispense with the poster to a large extent. Posters may serve a good purpose out in the sparsely settled districts, but even in these places the newspapers have the entry and can inform their readers much more intelligently and interestingly than the glaring poster. A well written advertisement properly placed is the surest medium of communication for the buyer and seller.

"Magic City" of Maine.

What is now known as Millinocket, the "Magic City" of Maine, was a bleak wilderness, threaded by an idle stream, three years ago. Now a town of 2,700 people is located on the spot, and the transformation has been effected by the erection of one mill, the largest pulp and paper plant in the world. Millinocket now has 300 dwellings, a modern hotel with steam heat, porcelain baths, electric lights and elevator; several smaller hotels and boarding houses, dozens of stores, several churches, a sixteen thousand dollar schoolhouse, waterworks, electric street lights, telegraph and telephone, excellent railroad accommodations and a theater. The mill employs 600 men and makes 240 tons of white paper daily, which is shipped to points as distant as Australia. All the men at Millinocket get high wages, and the town is the most prosperous place of its size in Maine. The mill grinds 60,000,000 feet of logs into pulp every year and has 18,000,000 feet of logs in one pile for present use.

Value of a Town's Streets.

It costs money to macadamize a pavement, but there is no village or town which should not incur the expense of putting at least its main street in the finest order. Such an improvement adds to the value of every piece of real estate within the limits

Bring the Children...

And have a permanent reproduction of their pretty faces made by my improved methods. I give especial attention to photographs of babies and children, and make extra efforts to produce pictures of the little ones that are natural and lifelike. Bring the baby and get a handsome photo.

Cowell's Studio.

Mary S. Diener

BAKERY GOODS, CONFECTIONERY, SCHOOL BOOKS, SUPPLIES AND STATIONERY.

109 S. Main St. Downtown Bldg.

WHEN IN CHICAGO YOU MUST EAT, AND THE BEST PLACE IS THE.....

Burcky & Milan

Ladies and Gentlemen's **Restaurant**

Extract from Bill of Fare: 154, 156, 158 and 160 So. Clark St.

DINNER...

Baked Whitefish... 15
Boiled Trout... 15
Salt Mackerel... 15
Fried Perch... 15
Roast Beef... 15
Small Steak... 15
Veal Cutlet... 15
Mutton Chop... 15
Broiled Ham... 15
Liver and Bacon... 15

Breakfast and Supper

Roast Mutton... 15
Veal Pot Pie... 15
Vocal Pot Pie... 15
Pork and Beans... 15
Soup... 5
Pudding... 5
Whitefish... 15
Fried Perch... 15
Salt Mackerel... 15
Fried Eggs... 15
Scrambled Eggs... 15

Endless Variety of Good Wholesome Food Properly Cooked, at Moderate Prices. Ladies and Gentlemen's Toilet Rooms with Hot and Cold Water and other Conveniences. Perfect Service. Seating Capacity 750.

CHICAGO HOTEL in Connection, ROOMS 50c, 75c, and \$1.00 PER DAY.

H. J. HAWKINS

Sole Agent For

The Keystone Water Meters

Approved by Village Board.

Keystone Meters are Accurate and Reliable

The Keystone Meters were awarded the gold Medal at Pan-American Exposition

DR. W. C. BARBER,

DENTIST.

Office Hours: 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Bank Building

DOWNS GROVE, ILLINOIS

J. W. MORFORD,

CONTRACTOR,

CARPENTER AND BUILDER.

JOBBING WORK DONE.

Contracts taken for all classes of building construction.

SUSAN A. ROBERTS, M. D.

OFFICE AND RESIDENCE:

Maple Avenue, next door West of School House.

Office Hours: Until 9 a. m. 2 to 5 p. m.

NEW SERVICE TO CALIFORNIA.

PULLMAN TOURIST SLEEPING CARS carrying personally conducted parties to California leave Chicago as follows:

EVERY TUESDAY at 6:10 p. m., runs via Galesburg, Quincy, Kansas City, Denver and the Colorado Midland to Los Angeles.

EVERY WEDNESDAY at 11:00 p. m., runs via Omaha, Denver and the Denver & Rio Grande Railway to Los Angeles.

EVERY FRIDAY at 11:00 p. m., runs to Los Angeles by same route as Wednesday car.

EVERY DAY at 11:00 p. m., Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars run via Omaha, Denver and the Denver & Rio Grande Railway to San Francisco.

For the local Burlington Agent for Pullman Sleeping Car reservations and other information, contact C. P. SCOTT, Ticket Agent.

WHEATON COLLEGE

WHEATON ILLINOIS.

"A School for Men and Women."

Terms begin September 17th, 1901; January 7th, April 8th and June 20th, 1902.

College Courses, Music School, Business School, Art School, Teachers' Course.

The best of instruction at reasonable rates for students. Chas. A. Blanchard, Pres.

Dr. Miles' Heart Cure

controls the heart action, accelerates the circulation and builds up the entire system. Sold by druggists on a guarantee.

Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

...R. T. MORGAN...

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

OFFICE IN THE COURTHOUSE—AT WHEATON.

Examination and Office Days the last Saturday of every month, excepting July, August, October and November.

MISS MARIANNA ROE,

(PUPIL OF AUGUST SYLVESTER, CHICAGO.)

TEACHER OF PIANO AND ORGAN.

TERMS REASONABLE.

109 So. Center St. Downtown Bldg., Ill.

CHOICE MEATS.

The very choicest cuts in steaks, chops and roasts will be an inducement offered our patrons. We always have on hand

FRESH AND SALT MEATS CANNED GOODS, FRUITS VEGETABLES, POULTRY OYSTERS AND FISH...

and can make very prompt deliveries. Orders called for if desired. Telephone No. 231. 32 South Main Street.

L. KLEIN.

Chicago Telephone Company