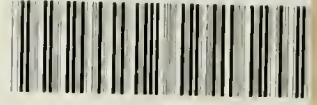


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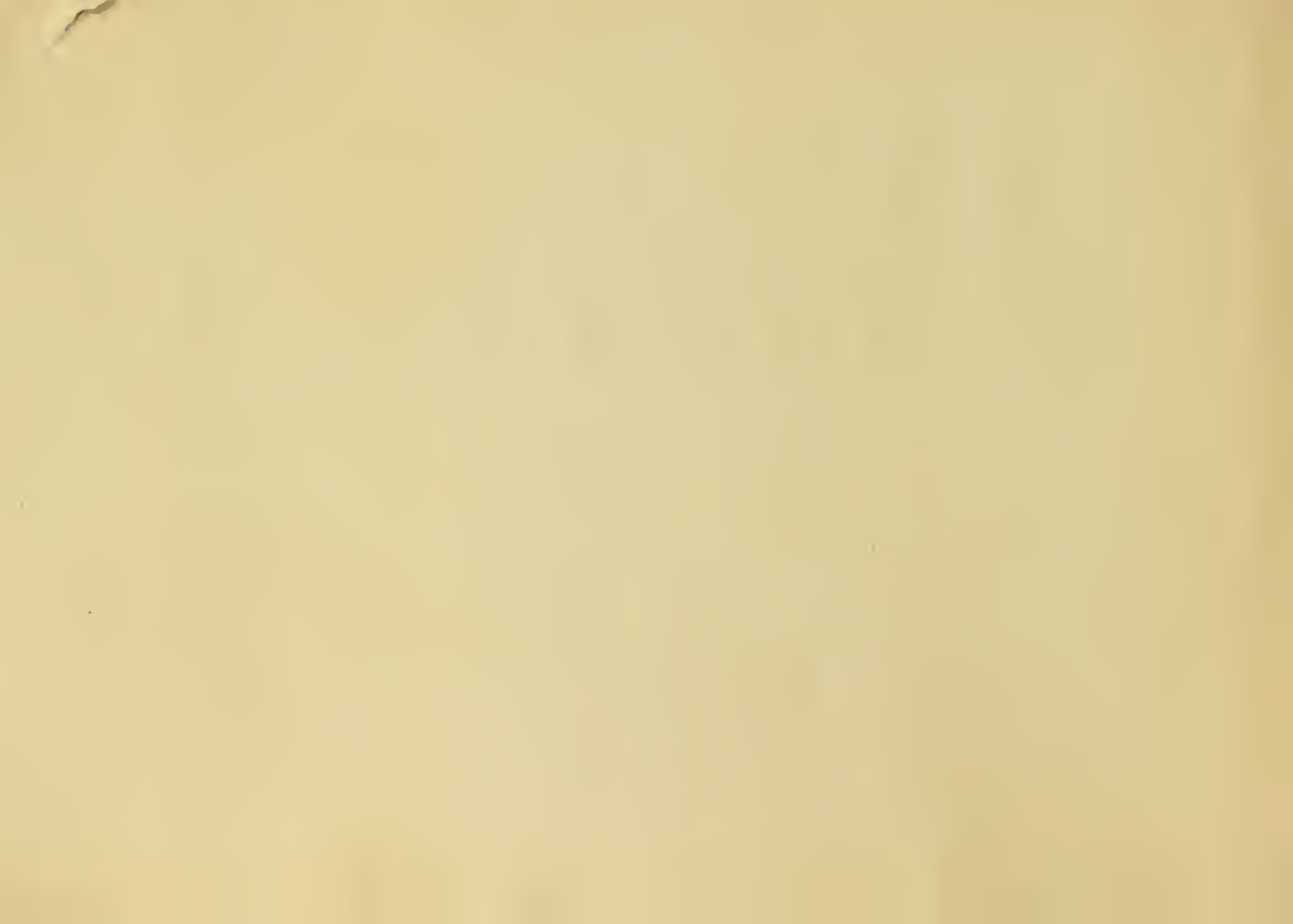






Photo by Wendt, Boonton

Boonton Falls as Viewed from Main Street

BOONTON



THE GEM OF
THE MOUNTAINS

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Photo by Wendt, Boonton

Along the Banks of the Morris Canal

BOONTON—A BRIEF HISTORY

By EDWARD J. CAHILL

THE natural beauties of Boonton lead many to suppose that they were the reasons for its selection for a town site. However, such is not the case; it was the building of the Morris Canal and the iron in the adjacent mountains to the north that led the New Jersey Iron Company to select Boonton as the place to locate its iron works. Boonton dates as a settlement back to about 1825, although the first settler of whom we have any knowledge in what is now Boonton was Christian Loweree, who built his little house in 1766 on the side of Sunset Hill, where is now the corner of Barnet Street and Woodside Avenue. The home of the President of the Boonton City Council, Herbert S. Hitchcock, is now located on the site of this first building in Boonton and some of the hewn timbers of it are used in the construction of Mr. Hitchcock's home. The original settlement, called Old Boonton, and located about 500 feet south from the corner of the Washington Street Bridge, the site of which is now ninety feet under the water of the Jersey City Reservoir, was a settlement over 200 years ago. Old Boonton was first named Boone-town after Thomas Boone, Governor of the province of New Jersey, 1760, '61, '62, and a friend of David Ogden of Newark, the original owner of the tract.

It was the water power that also led to the selection of Old Boonton as a place of settlement. Iron ore was found in the nearby mountains by early settlers, and a dam was built across the Rockaway River at Old Boonton and forges built to extract the iron from the ore. Iron was very precious in those days and the village of Old Boonton grew fast and became quite a settlement at the time we mention, 200 years ago. It was the first iron works in America. During the Revolutionary War, cannon balls, kettles, nails and many articles of iron were manufactured here for the Revolutionary Army. During the winter of 1776-1777, when the Continental Army was located at Morristown, Washington was a frequent visitor

at Old Boonton to supervise and look after the iron articles being made for the army. At that time General Washington divided his troops and quartered them in different places near Morristown. A large number of Irish troops from Philadelphia that were with the Continental Army were quartered near Old Boonton on a lot now owned by Mrs. Meldrum near Green Bank and yet known as the "Irish Lot." Many of our old residents remember Old Boonton, and how steep the road that led down from Greenwood Cemetery to this quaint old village, and how much steeper was the road that led up the hill on the other side toward Parsippany. At the time of the building of the Jersey City Reservoir all the old buildings were torn down and now its waters fill the valley where once it stood. It is surprising to know how large a population lived in this section 150 years ago. All through the mountains can be seen large numbers of old foundations that are now little more than depressions.

After the defeat of the Hessian Army at Trenton some of those soldiers came to the mines of Morris County, and many of the soldiers stationed at Morristown also came here and married and are the ancestors of some of the people hereabouts. When the New Jersey Iron Works were constructed here many families of iron workers from Wales came here to work and immigrants from Ireland, England, and Germany also settled here because they were able to secure employment in the iron works. The iron works gradually developed into and became the largest cut nail industry in America. For some years previous to 1876, wire nails began to be used and gradually superseded cut nails in the market, and as none but cut nails were made here the works were frequently idle waiting for orders. The people who had invested their little savings in homes stayed here waiting for the orders for nails that never came until 1876 when the nail works closed down for good. Then came the dark days for Boonton. Its inhabitants had to close up and abandon the homes they had built with their savings, and wander over the country looking for work. After a time other manufactures located here and some of the wanderers returned to their homes, but many never came back and a few were brought back to sleep their long sleep. During later years the beauty of the town has attracted many people and now we have a large suburban population who live here and do business in New York.

A COMMUTER'S IMPRESSIONS OF BOONTON

By GEORGE E. BATES

PERHAPS in writing of the impressions of a commuter it would not be amiss to mention the impressions which the writer had of that fraternity before becoming one himself. Previous to that time, I believe I always had a certain amount of pity for a person whom I knew to be a commuter. I hardly know why, but in some way had associated a regular commuter with a hurried trip to the breakfast table, possibly an almost frantic attempt to button a refractory collar with one hand while lifting a cup of steaming coffee to the lips with the other; meanwhile trying to watch the minute hand of the clock race around the dial; this to be followed by a wild dash for the station.

I find, however, this was an exaggerated impression, that with occasional exceptions the commuter is methodical. He unconsciously acquires the habit of rising at a certain hour, reaching the breakfast table at about the same time each morning, allowing himself enough time to reach the station. The habit of being methodical grows with the average commuter. He plans his office work, or whatever duties he may have to perform in this manner, so that commuting is excellent training for any business man or woman. I confess my feelings were those of disappointment, when I alighted from the train on my first visit to Boonton about five years ago. At that time the station, a little red colored structure, stood outside of the town, surrounded by trees, with hardly another building visible. The path then used led into a ravine, through a winding route between manufacturing buildings to a series of steps, which led into the town.

Pausing after the climb I was immediately impressed with the magnificent view which was visible from this location, also the similarity of the portion of the town before me to the town in good Old

New England, where I had formerly lived. I soon learned with pleasure that a new station was then under way, and a few months later saw its completion.

Boonton people may well feel proud of their station, situated as it is in the centre of the town making it convenient from all directions. The architectural design is modern and pleasing. It is commodious, occupying both sides of the track connected by a subway, with well-kept grounds and approaches. Commuters from Boonton are fortunate in being able to use the "Road of Anthracite" with its absence of disagreeable black smoke, clean and comfortable coaches, which are always well heated when necessary. The morning ride into the city is always enjoyable. The scenery from Boonton to Paterson is particularly interesting with the changes incidental to the seasons.

Spring, with its deepening green and opening buds, followed by the planting season and the growth and harvesting of crops, then the frosts of early fall, producing the exquisite color combinations from turning leaves. Winter also does its share toward making beautiful pictures, with its occasional snow-white mantle; sometimes a beautiful scene is produced by the rain, freezing to the branches and glistening in the sunlight.

I recently heard a gentleman say he had been commuting for about twenty years and still enjoyed the experience. Shortly after the completion of the new station, Birch Street, leading from it to the westward, was paved and flagged and otherwise put in good condition. At the same time the old wooden steps connecting with William Street were removed and substantial stone steps, handsome in design, substituted. Since that time a number of streets have been widened, and put in up-to-date condition, adding much to the attractiveness of the town. This has stimulated the building interests to a considerable degree. Many attractive modern houses have been erected within the past few years. These are always promptly occupied by either the owner or tenant. Reasonable rents are another attraction of Boonton. We have six churches, excellent schools, two weekly papers, a public library and modern theatre.

The proposed Boulevard from Towaco via Capstick Lake through the former golf grounds to Division Street, probably continuing along Morris Avenue to the Parsippany Turnpike at Fox Hill, will open up an attractive section. Our streets are well lighted, Boonton being adequately supplied with both gas and electricity. We also have thoroughly organized police, fire, and health departments. With an occasional lake to vary the scenery, driving and motoring are made interesting, while those who prefer a stroll or possibly a climb can visit such attractive points as the "Tourne" and "Sunset Hill."

A few weeks ago our new Boonton Club opened the doors of its new spacious home on Cornelia Street to its members. It has been thoroughly equipped and made attractive to both young and older members. The last year has seen the system of house numbering inaugurated. Arrangements are perfected and a few weeks later will see free postal delivery in Boonton. This is already in operation in the outlying districts of the town. The new trolley, upon which rapid progress is now being made, will be a valuable asset to Boonton, being a great convenience and enabling one to take interesting rides to Lake Hopatcong and other attractive points. Not long ago I heard an ex-Brooklyn Boonton resident remark, "If people knew the many advantages of our town, we would not be able to accommodate them." This is probably correct. Boonton enjoys the distinction of having the greatest altitude of any town within the same distance of New York.

It has dry air, and is comparatively free from mosquitoes, the entire absence of screened porches being evidence of the fact. Boating and canoeing are favorite pleasures during the summer months, the picturesque Rockaway River and Morris and Essex Canal affording excellent opportunities for that sport. Within the past two years several handsome residences have been built outside of the town by some desiring more space. There are many desirable sites still available for those with similar tastes. In conclusion, it is hardly necessary for me to say that my impression of Boonton is favorable. I have abundant faith in its future. It has the attractive features for the average suburban home-seeker, and can "make good" if given the opportunity.



Photos by A. Endt, Buonton.

Residences of (1) Frank E. Morse, (2) George E. Bates, (3) William C. Salmon, (4) Richard P. Messiter



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Residences of (1) Edwin A. Fisher, (2) Edward J. Cahill, (3) Hon. T. J. Hillery, (4) Herbert S. Hitchcock

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THE CHURCHES OF BOONTON

By Rev. GEORGE LAW RICHMOND

THE religious and moral character of Boonton is represented in the many churches which rise upon its hills. Viewed from the western slope of the Orange Mountains the spires of these churches may be seen pointing toward the sky and inviting the stranger to come and make it his home.

The Presbyterian Church was the first to be organized. No sooner was the town founded, in the fall of 1831, through its choice as a site for the works of the New Jersey Iron Company, than the people set about the organizing of a church and on July 1st, 1832, the First Presbyterian Church of Boonton began its existence which has been one of growing prosperity from that time until the present. In 1833 the newly organized church was housed in a church building, the land for the same being a gift from the Iron Company, and this building, moved to its present position on Church Street, is still used for the Sunday school. In 1844 the Rev. Daniel Megie was installed as pastor and remained such until 1872, a period of twenty-eight years, during which he exerted a powerful influence on the morals of the village.

In 1859 the present church edifice was built and two years later wings were added on either side. The Rev. Thomas Carter was called in 1872 and remained pastor till 1894, just about a quarter of a century. In 1874 the present manse was built at a cost of seven thousand dollars. Mr. Carter was succeeded on his death by the Rev. William H. Woolverton who served for six years and was followed by the present pastor, the Rev. George L. Richmond. The church is in a most prosperous condition, owning a property entirely free from debt, valued at some twenty-five thousand dollars, and every agency for church work in a flourishing condition.

The Roman Catholic Church comes next in order of time. The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel stands on an eminence where it can be seen from any part of the surrounding country. It

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BOONTON, N. J.

was organized August 15th, 1847, and occupied a small edifice which was built the same year costing three hundred and fifty dollars, the land being donated by the New Jersey Iron Co. In 1860 the Rev. Dominic Castet was appointed rector and immediately began the erection of the handsome stone structure, in which the church now worships, at a cost of some \$12,000. The Rectory was built about three years after. The parochial school also owes its inception to Father Castet. Under the pastorate of Father Poels, beginning in 1884, the residence for the sisters was built and the church property improved. He was followed by Father Tighe in 1892 who is remembered as an efficient and loving pastor. In 1895 the present rector, the Rev. Conrad Schotthoefer, D.D., entered upon his term of service and has been untiring in his efforts to improve the church both as to its organization and its material holdings. The beauty of its situation has been greatly enhanced by the taste displayed in the improvements carried out under the supervision of the present rector.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1856. For many years previous there had been Methodist meetings in Boonton but not until this year did they deem themselves strong enough to build a church and exist as a separate organization. The Rev. C. Clark accomplished the erection of a church and the revival of the following year greatly strengthened its membership. In the spring of 1866, under the pastorate of the Rev. H. D. Opdyke, two hundred and fifty persons were added to the church and the foundation of the present commodious building on Main Street was laid. Under the Rev. W. B. Wigg the church building was completed and about three hundred members added. A beautiful parsonage was built adjoining the church during the pastorate of Mr. McCormick. Many eminent men in the Methodist Church have served as pastors in Boonton, among whom are John Taylor, John Krantz, Enoch Meacham, Charles W. McCormick, Gilbert C. Mouldsdaie, and Nathaniel Brooks.

It was under the last pastor, Nathaniel Brooks, that the church was entirely renovated and given its present attractive appearance. The Rev. Milton E. Grant is the present pastor.



Photos by Wendt, Boonton.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel R. C. Church



First Reformed Church



St. John's Episcopal Church



Photos by Wendt, Boonton.
Presbyterian Church



St. Cyril and Method Slavish R. C. Church



Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage



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St. John's Church, on Cornelia Street, represents the Episcopal Church in Boonton. On November 2nd, 1856, Bishop Doane formally organized the church, appointing the Rev. Francis D. Canfield to take charge. Meeting at first in the abandoned Congregational building on Main Street the church soon moved to the Temperance Hall on Church Street, leasing it for three years and furnishing it for church purposes. The church took possession on October 1st, 1857, and on October 7th, Bishop Doane confirmed five persons. The church prospered and in 1863, land on Cornelia Street having been donated to the church by Messrs. Fuller & Lord, owners of the iron works, the present building was completed and consecrated by Bishop Odenheimer on October 13th. Mr. Canfield, after ten years of service, was succeeded by the Rev. R. D. Stearns. The Rev. John D. Appleton was rector from 1874 to 1890. He was a faithful pastor and one of his notable works was the reformation of conditions in the poor house which resulted in the founding of the Children's Home at Parsippany.

The Rev. Percy T. Fem, I. C. Joralemon, and Lewis B. Howell have served as rectors of this church. Its present rector is the Rev. Henry B. Wilson, B.D., under whose strenuous and devoted labors the church is greatly prospering.

The First Reformed Church of Boonton, Morris Co., New Jersey, was organized February 2nd, 1868. It was a daughter of the Montville Reformed Church and established itself on what is now known as the "Flats" of Boonton, where at the corner of Grant and Washington Streets, it has nobly maintained itself ever since. It is not a large church, but it has done a real work and has a most creditable record. It has had rather a striking succession of ministers—men who have since become known and respected in the larger work of the church. Rev. Cyrus B. Durand, Rev. Augustus Todd, Rev. F. F. Wilson, Rev. John W. Conklin, Rev. Oliver H. Walser, Rev. A. A. King, Rev. C. M. Perlee, Rev. A. D. W. Mason, and Rev. Alex McKelvey—all have been successively ministers of this church.

The present minister, Rev. G. Russell Hageman, is a graduate of the "New College," Edinburgh, and a former minister of the American Church at The Hague.

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The St. Cyril and Method Church was organized to meet the demand of a great number of families of Slavish birth who desired to worship in their own tongue. A beautiful church building was erected on the brow of the hill, all paid for by the generous gifts of the members. A second building for social purposes has since been erected farther up the hill. The church was organized in 1908 and is prospering under the ministry of the Rev. Francis Skutil.

BOONTON BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE Business Men's Association of Boonton is an organization formed about fifteen months ago for the purpose of general town improvements. It has no by-laws and questions of politics and religion are eliminated. Its regular meetings are held on the third Monday evening of each month when a bountiful dinner is provided. This is followed by reports of the various committees and voluntary remarks, with an occasional out-of-town speaker. With good results this organization has taken up increased railroad service, improvements of streets and bridges, numbering of houses, trolley and other similar matters, and feeling that the outside world should know of the many advantages of Boonton have issued this booklet, "The Gem of the Mountains," believing that a visit to our town is the best argument which it can advance toward convincing the homeseeker that Boonton, while recognizing the advantages possessed by other localities, takes its hat off to none when the question of health, accessibility, and moral environment is impartially considered.

Officers.—W. C. Salmon, President; Albert P. Smith, vice-president; Geo. U. Todd, sec'y and treas.

Executive Committee.—Geo. E. Bates, Raymond Dawson, E. A. Fisher, Robert Green, Herbert S. Hitchcock, Geo. U. Todd, Harry M. Ball, Giles E. Miller, William C. Salmon, Albert P. Smith.

A copy of this book may be secured by addressing the Boonton Business Men's Association.



Photo by Wendi, Boonton

A View from North Main Street



Photo by Wendt, Boonton

River with the Tourne in the Distance

PHONE 150

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THE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

By MRS. CHARLES B. SEABURY

THE Boonton Improvement Society, organized thirteen years ago by a few earnest women and having at the present time about sixty members, is one of the recognized institutions of the community. Its plan from the first was to co-operate with the city government in all matters pertaining to the cleanliness, sanitation, morality, and beauty of the town, to attend to the details of decoration or improvement which the Council had neither time nor money for—in short to take the woman's part in the municipal housekeeping. This it has done in such a way as to win for itself an undisputed influence.

There are six standing committees as follows: *Streets and Sanitation; Public Schools; Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Public Library; Decoration or Beautifying*, and *Press*. The business of these committees is transacted at a regular monthly meeting (second Friday). There is also a social meeting once a month (fourth Tuesday) for which a short literary program is provided, consisting of some civic or economic topic for study, or the reading of a good story solely to promote good fellowship.

The Society has to its credit the putting up of a drinking fountain; a footbridge built over the river; the lighting of a dark thoroughfare (until the city took it over); a stone rest or seat, overlooking the Falls; some added comforts to the teachers' room in the high school house; some improvements about school grounds; neatness of canal banks; the beautifying of half a dozen triangles where streets of the town meet; putting up street signs, etc., etc. Its latest achievement is the procuring of a twenty-thousand-dollar gift to the town of a strip of land to be known as the Schultze Park, which perpetuates a magnificent view and provides a much-needed thoroughfare between two streets.

There is a tradition that in years gone by a leading citizen, trying to brace the courage of a modern Cincinnatus who had been called to the mayor's chair from his plough, or other peaceful occupation,

To Those Who Have Never Visited Boonton

IN other pages of this book you will read of the growth of Boonton and the advantages which the town has to offer to the investor and the manufacturer and its attractions to the homeseeker. That Boonton has attractions needs no proof to those who know the town, but to those who have never visited Boonton we call attention to the fact that during the last year the little village of New York has moved fifteen minutes (the equivalent of ten miles) nearer to Boonton. This has been effected through the medium of the Hudson River Tunnels — a great thing for Boonton, but a still greater thing for New York

said to him: "Mr. Blank, don't you worry, there will be no trouble at all. You'll get along all right—unless—the Improvement Society gets after you, and then—Heaven help you!"

Not so now. The tables are turned, and everybody, without regard to race, color, or previous condition of servitude, gets after the Improvement Society. Any annoyance, from that of stray cats and dogs to the qualms produced by objectionable bill boards, any suggestion for betterment, from the licensing of cab drivers to the establishing of a new park, from the correction of a bad custom to the founding of a permanent improvement, is pretty sure to find its way to this ever-sympathetic body. It seems only fair to say that, so far, appeals have seldom been made in vain.

THE BOONTON CLUB

THE Boonton Club was organized in September, 1909, and has had a very gratifying growth, having constantly added to its membership which at this writing exceeds 130 men, most of whom are residents of Boonton. The object of the Club is to create a better acquaintance with one another and to cultivate sociability and intellectual improvement among its members. The Club is very comfortably housed in the fine old mansion of the late Hon. John Hill, which is located on spacious grounds on the corner of Cornelia and Birch Streets, where there is plenty of room for tennis, basket ball, and warming up space. The Club has a fine large double parlor which is used for games, a billiard room, pool room, library, dining room and kitchen on the first floor, and sleeping apartments on the second and third floors. Several of the members make the Club their home, while others can if they choose, occupy temporary quarters in the house which are fitted up as guest rooms. One very desirable feature of this Club is its restaurant, which is presided over by an efficient chef, who is on duty at all times during club hours which are from 7 A. M. to 11:30 P. M. Another good feature of this Club is, that no wines, liquors, or intoxicating beverages of any description are allowed on the property or in the house.

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BOONTON'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By PROF. M. P. REAGLE

MOST people looking for places in which to locate are influenced to some extent at least by the schools. Imposing, commodious, well-equipped, up-to-date school buildings are a standing advertisement for homeseekers. Boonton has three public school buildings which furnish suitable facilities and accommodations for the eight hundred and fifty pupils enrolled. The paramount considerations in selecting the sites of these buildings have been the health, comfort, and convenience of the children. They are situated on comparatively high ground and are so located as to be easily accessible from any part of the town.

Due regard has been given to proper heating, lighting, ventilation, and all other hygienic requirements. A new steam-heating plant has been recently installed and also an improved individual fan system of ventilation, supplying the entire buildings with hot or cold air as desired. A school physician has been chosen in accordance with the recent school law whose duty it shall be to examine each pupil to find out whether any physical defects exist and to detect the first signs of communicable disease to the end that epidemics may be prevented.

The course of study, which is approved by the State, covers a period of thirteen years. It includes one year in the Kindergarten, four years in the Primary grades, four years in the Grammar grades, and four years in the High School. This is the time required for the average pupil; one above the average may do the work in less time, while one less gifted will be obliged to take longer.

The public is becoming more appreciative each year of Kindergarten instruction—so much so that another Kindergarten was added this present school year. As to the value of this kind of instruction it is observed that the children more readily submit to school discipline, are more accurate in observation,



Photo by Wendt, Boonton.

(Left) St. Mary's School (Center) Dr. John L. Taylor's Residence (Right) South Boonton School



Photo by Wendt, Boonton

High School Building

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seize ideas with more rapidity and exactness, and express what they know with greater correctness and fluency than those who have not had this training.

As to the instruction in the Primary, Grammar, and High School Departments, it may be said in a general way that there is an intelligent adaptation of instruction in matter and method to the changing ability of the pupil. The method is suited to the kind of knowledge to be taught and to the stage of the mind's development. The aim is to secure mental discipline and impart valuable information; to cultivate the virtues of regularity, punctuality, neatness, accuracy, industry, and obedience; and to present such high and worthy motives as will lead, through acquired will power, to virtuous action and stability of character. The teachers who are always the chief factors in a school system are selected on the basis of natural aptitude, special training, tact, skill, and genuine sympathy, which ought to ensure effective and salutary results.

Special teachers supervise the work in Manual Training and Music. Manual training runs through all the grades up to the High School. It consists of drawing, paper-cutting, pasting, weaving, braiding, clay-modeling, basketry, sewing, and woodwork. A carpenter shop equipped with thirty benches is provided for the boys of the seventh and eighth grades who work one and a half hours each week. During the same time the girls of these grades are engaged in sewing. Nothing stimulates and quickens the intellect more than the use of mechanical tools. The boy who begins to construct things is compelled at once to think, deliberate, reason, and conclude. The economical and practical value of sewing to the future mother and housekeeper cannot be overestimated. The immediate educational effect upon the girl is of no less value. Order, patience, perseverance, and ingenuity are stitched into every garment; and to develop thoroughness, independence, originality, and individuality is the aim of the entire system of manual training.

Music holds a distinctive place in education, one which no other study can fill. The aim is to have it so presented that it may perform its true office of developing high and noble ideals which may become

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realities in the life and character of the child. There ought to be a correspondence between the soul of the song and the heart of the child, and with enthusiasm and sympathy on the part of the teacher it is not difficult to establish this correspondence.

The supervisor of music visits each class once a week and oftener if time permits. The remaining lessons of the week are given by the regular teachers. One of the aims is to secure pure, sweet, sympathetic singing. Loud, harsh singing not only injures the throat but it emphasizes those very traits of character that it should be the province of music to overcome.

There are three courses of study in the High School Department, the Latin Scientific Course, intended to prepare pupils for college; the General Course, for those who do not expect to enter college; and the Commercial Course, for those who expect to enter business. Diplomas are awarded to those graduating from these courses. In the Commercial Course certificates are given at the end of the first, second, or third year, indicating the quantity and quality of the work done. This is for the benefit of those who cannot take the entire course.

The management of the schools is directed by a Board of Education which is composed of representative men of affairs, chosen on the basis of sound judgment and intelligent foresight, exhibiting true economy in expenditure, sacrificing valuable time and deserved leisure that the schools may measure up to a high standard of practical efficiency.

Connected with the Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel are the parochial schools. The classes are in charge of the Sisters of St. Dominic under whose careful and capable management one hundred and forty-five children receive a common school education, fitting them after graduation for entrance into high school. In addition to the regular common course, Christian doctrine is imparted to the children by both the Sisters and the Pastor. Through the generosity of the parishioners the Pastor has been enabled to make the schools free even to furnishing the text-books gratuitously.—*By Rev. C. Schotthoefcr, D.D.*



Photo by Wendt, Boonton

High Mountain Reservoir Where Boonton Gets Its Pure Water Supply

A POEM ON THE BEAUTIES OF BOONTON

By MRS. NEWTON S. KITCHEL

IF you go to old Manhattan,
And take a flying train,
And ride at your best for an hour to the west
Through forest and village and plain,
You will reach our little city
With its woodlands green and dim,
And the ancient wall of mountains tall
On the blue horizon's rim.

There's a river that sings in the sunlight,
And talks where the pine trees grow,
And ripples and plays through the forest ways
Till it reaches the lake below.
And fair as the Land of Beulah,
In Bunyan's sacred dream,
Is our Boonton view reaching up to the blue,
And sloping down to the stream.

You should reach our little city
In the season of opening leaves,
When Spring with her emerald shuttle,
Her garment of beauty weaves.
There are birds and brooks and blossoms,
And blossoms and brooks and birds,
And a song for a poet—could he but know it—
Too precious and sweet for words.

Come to us in the Autumn
When the shuttle is rainbow-dyed;
Not the Hebrew king in his glory
Was arrayed like our mountain-side.
O, the golden-rod and the aster!
The brooks whence the laugh hath fled!
And the heart stands still, with a throb and a thrill,
To think that Summer is dead.

Come when the wild white Winter
Sweeps down with a laugh and a shout,
And in armor of blue and silver
Stand the sentinel hills about.
Come when you will to Boonton—
'Twill be twice if you come at all—
In every season has beauty reason,
For her sweet, insistent call.

What says the Arabian proverb?
"Hast thou two loaves of bread,
Sell one and buy thee hyacinths
To feed thy soul instead."
And may never the ring of the dollar,
Clanging ever so close to the ear,
E'er deaden the voice that bids us rejoice
In the beauty now held so dear.

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There are not many brides to be that interest themselves in their fiancé's wedding suit. They are so busy with their own, little thought is expended on his. This may be right, yet it is a fine thing to consider others. In this case, it is mighty important; that is, if the wedding is to be correct in its appointments. The groom must be correctly attired. While he doesn't cut the big figure on that day, still he's necessary. If he's to be there he should be there right. I can make him right so far as his clothes go. I know just what he should wear and I have the things ready or will make them to order. Frock coats and vests \$25. Trousers \$5. Cut-away coats and vests \$18. Full dress suits \$35 to \$45.

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Photos by Wendi, Boonton.

(Left) Essex Avenue, Boonton Park (Center) Washington Street (Right) Morris Avenue



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BOONTON'S financial, commercial, and industrial enterprises as constituted to-day, stand in a very enviable position, when we consider the fact that up to 1876 we had but one industry, that of the Boonton Iron Company, whose product, cut nails, was distributed to customers throughout the world.

During the past thirty years we have grown to be one of the most substantial manufacturing towns within the metropolitan zone, having in active operation at this time a large rolling mill, The Boonton Iron & Steel Co., The Westinghouse Storage Battery Co., whose product is well known in every clime, The A. E. Norton Co., one of the largest structural iron concerns in the country, The Knox Hat Manufacturing Co., whose hats are world renowned, The Field & White Co., roofing paper manufacturers, The Webb Hinge Belt Hook Co., whose product has not only a domestic market, but is sold throughout England and the Continent, The General Foundry Co., The Liberty Manufacturing Co., makers of flags and handkerchiefs, The Catterall Printing Co., The George Benda Co., bronze manufacturers, The National Metal Molding Co., The Boonton Rubber Co., The Pelgram & Myer Co., silk manufacturers, John Capstick & Sons, Globe Print Works.

We have one of the best mutual loan associations in the State. The Boonton Building & Loan Association, which was established in May, 1889, has a record of which its members are deservedly proud. It is not only the oldest financial institution we have, but it is an institution which has more largely contributed to the upbuilding of the community than any other factor. During the twenty years of its existence it has received more than \$1,500,000 in dues from its members and has always been ready to assist any worthy person to acquire a home, which is the primary object of this association. It has been the means of aiding in part over four hundred persons in acquiring homes and has returned promptly to non-borrow-

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ing members their savings on demand. In addition to the above figures the association has paid to its members more than \$143,000 in dividends, and has maintained a rate equal to six per cent. during its existence. This institution has been, is, and will continue to be the one great help to the person who desires some day to have a home of his own, as its management is ever ready to lend an applicant all the help possible.

We also have a national bank, The Boonton National Bank, which was established January 17th, 1890, and has recently been granted an extension of charter for twenty years. This bank is and has been a "Roll of Honor" institution for many years and stands among the first in the class of 600 banks which constitute the "Roll of Honor" in the National Bank System, of which there are 7,025 in operation in the United States. The bank's capital and surplus is \$200,000 and it has a line of \$775,000 in deposits and its circulation is \$25,000. It is both a commercial and a savings institution and endeavors to supply the wants of its depositors in every way, both as to extending credit and caring for the savings, allowing interest in its savings department on all sums from \$5 and upward. The bank is having installed an up-to-date burglar proof safe deposit vault which will contain something over one hundred boxes of assorted sizes suitable for the safekeeping of bonds, securities, stock certificates, insurance policies, or other valuable papers. This vault will also contain compartments which will be large enough for storing valuables which would require more than the ordinary box or drawer space. In addition to this improvement the bank directors purpose to rearrange the banking room to meet the requirements of the safe deposit vault and of its growing business. The popularity and confidence the people of the town have in their local bank is best told when it is known that this institution has upward of 2,500 accounts on its books, which is an average of one account for each two of the population of the community. The officers and the directors are all well-known men, several of whom are "natives" who are engaged in business in New York City and reside in Boonton.

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There are a number of good factory sites conveniently located, the owners of which are prepared to deal liberally with reliable concerns. Local capitalists are fast building houses to meet the demand of the working people and also the business man whose duties demand that he seek a healthy locality in which to locate within commuting distance from the City. There is almost an unlimited number of beautiful building sites in and near Boonton that can be bought for a very reasonable price, where one can have plenty of room and enjoy the most charming scenery in the State.

The Boonton Business Men's Association is a very live organization which has for its object the building up and making more beautiful the town.

We have several well-equipped stores whose management is energetic and efficient, who at all times have the single object in view, that is, good service and the best products at the very lowest prices. The community is well cared for along this line and the residents show their appreciation by liberally patronizing their home merchants.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE Boonton Public Library has a comfortable home conveniently located at the corner of Main and Church Streets. It was founded by the generosity of the late James Holmes and was organized in May, 1893. The library contains over 4,000 volumes with a circulation of 12,000 yearly. The trustees endeavor to place before the public the best publications available and an ever increasing supply of the best and latest books of the day. The reading room in connection with the library is furnished with a generous assortment of well-selected periodicals and is patronized by more than 4,000 people annually.

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THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

By CHARLES F. HOPKINS

FEW if any of the principals are alive to-day that were active in the conduct of slaves on the road to Canada after escaping the "nigger catchers" of the South and reaching a free State of the North, i.e., above Mason and Dixon's line.

The writer's knowledge thereof begins in 1856, when but past fourteen years of age, my father being one of the conductors of that road, and a very strong anti-slavery advocate. All such men were steady readers of *The New York Tribune*, and admirers of Horace Greeley. Among the promoters and active workers and financiers of this "underground" line, were Dr. John Grimes, William G. Lathrop, John Hill, Philip Wootton, Thomas C. Willis, Nathan Hopkins, Geo. Ely, Chas. B. Norris, Fred'k Stone, James Grimes, Wm. Coates, and others that do not readily come to mind. Headquarters in Boonton was the house of Dr. Grimes on the corner of Liberty and Main Streets, where the slave who had gone beyond the loud baying of the bloodhound of the South and escaped the terrors of recapture within the lines of the slave States, and had tasted the hope of freedom, and breathed the air of a free people, reached a haven of comfort, shelter, advice, and aid such as he needed. The nearest station to Boonton was the Hotel at Powerville. There were stations at Rockaway, Dover, Pompton Plains, Newfoundland, Canisteer, Stockholm, and Charlottenburg, all known to the writer, but his experience was in the main confined to Boonton, Stockholm, and Canisteer.

There was always a price upon the head of the runaway slave, from \$50 to \$300 and \$500; depending on the value of the slave as a chattel, as the horse or other animal.

Much to the credit of local constables they would rather aid the slave to escape if not caught in the



Photo by Wendt, Bounton

Sunset Lake, Inside the Town's Limits



Photos by Wendt, Boonton.

(Left) Residence of Mr. George Saunders. (Center) Lackawanna Station. (Right) Lover's Lane, Boonton Park

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act, than arrest him. The love of freedom to mankind was stronger than the love of gold that brought misery worse than death to the recaptured slave.

One constable in Morris County known to the writer lacked every attribute of manhood or principle, was devoid of human feelings for all but himself, and would have sold his best friend for a price. He is dead and gone to the keeping of his former master in crime. He was the only officer to the knowledge of the writer that spent his time to obtain the rewards if possible by the arrest of the runaway. He was a fit companion of a Legree, with none of Legree's cunning. As I never knew him to earn a single reward, he may have been rewarded some other way by his employers.

The game of hunting may have been for the excitement, from which he may have felt compensated, but game he never potted on the road to freedom via Boonton route.

This officer closely watched the Boonton-Powerville route. A slave would reach the haven of Dr. Grimes. Word was mysteriously sent to Powerville, time and place was set where the slave would be found, for transfer to Powerville, Canisteer or Stockholm. My orders from father were: Keep your eyes open, ears also, and never spare horseflesh, take all chances yourself, but save your charge from recapture at all hazards. This, to a fourteen-year-old boy, was rather stiff orders, but being young and a strong enthusiast in the cause, and not knowing the possible risk and results, I comforted my mind with the idea that the worst possible thing to happen was failure to save a recapture, as that would have been mortifying in the extreme, both to my parent and my own ambition to succeed. We had a gray mare that was superior to any in this section on the run and for a long and hard drive, and a two-wheeled conveyance called a "sulky," made for the occasion, we judge by the 6-foot wheel, and built so strong in every way, which was always used when a single person beside the driver was to be taken over the "underground" road.

With the constable hanging about watching my father's every move, I was used as a blind and sent to Boonton in the sulky, the constable following, of course. I went to D. C. Norris's store and got some goods, and from Fred'k Stone obtained the information as to the place the slave would be, came back, and

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hitched a good black mare we had to a Rockaway wagon (a closed affair used in those days), opened the barn doors in south end (towards Boonton) and tied her, when father gave me instructions what to do in case the constable followed him to Boonton, which he was sure to do. Father, moving in mysterious manner towards the barn, excited the officer, and when he saw the "Rockaway" move out of rear of barn when he expected something from the front, he gave chase after a horse that was in much higher class than his; I followed them, keeping out of sight of the officer until he passed beyond Marble Cottage Hill, when I turned in the Whitehead lane (now a road leading up in the woods near the house of T. J. Hillery's homestead), made my way to the junction of the wood road near the swamp (now Hillery's Lake), and found my man, and at the simple word "yes" spoken by him, he got on the seat under me. Now commenced the doubts and fears, my heart beating like a trip hammer. Not another word was spoken until hours after, we following the rough road that led to Splitrock and from the head of the pond to Charlottenburg, as it was then called, passing through the dark woods of what was then a very lonesome and very rough road, when I heard a voice, halted, and asked my charge to get into the woods until we knew what was doing. He slyly did so, and I drew as far into the side of the road as possible, and was compelled to hail the oncomer, for two could not pass and one keep all the road. I hailed, "Hold up there," and coming close was surprised to know that I was to meet William Earles on his way home at a late hour. After some questioning as to why I was up in those woods at that hour of night, and not getting any good reason, after expressing himself that it was "damn funny," passed on. We signalled, the passenger mounted again, and the road was clear to our destination, until within the sight of the signal of a light in the upper window of a house, when two forms stepped in the road in front of us. I pulled the whip which was never needed on this animal, intending to make a run, but a light was instantly shown by a swing to the right, and my very much disturbed heart felt better. I could feel the constrained stiffness of the man under me relax, as he was ready to leave the sulky if I rose up. The password "yes" and the slave got down and went to the house, and I was instructed to return to Newfoundland and put out until

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morning. I slept a little, and as Billings says, rolled over a good deal, thinking of the past five hours and its probabilities. So far the boy of fourteen was a success and enjoyed the idea that he was a part of the system. A number of times this was repeated, but not all exciting. However upon one occasion I was chased fourteen miles by this constable while I had a slave, his wife, and a child, but I beat him to a place of shelter at Pompton Plains and unloaded before he saw where and passed beyond some distance, then deliberately turned about, and passed him at a run and outdistanced him to a private crossroad where I kept out of his way on his flight after me, he having two "nigger catchers" with him, thus handicapping him some, though he was not in it when the gray was

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on her mettle. After he passed the point where I was, I returned to the shelter and took up my passengers and safely delivered them at Stockholm.

In all these lonely night drives talk was forbidden except when actually necessary. When I think of those night rides on the roads through rocks, roots, mud, and brush, scarcely able to see a yard ahead, often in stormy weather, no one to talk to, heart up to the throat at every sound, imaginary forms looming up out of the gloom, and a fear of non-success, yet none of personal harm, I have thought since, that it was well worth the trouble and worry.

BOONTON'S SOCIAL LIFE

By GEORGE U. TODD

THE social, literary and musical activities of a community reflect the culture and tastes of its people and, in these respects, Boonton will appeal to the homeseeking, city-bred family, who will here find a hospitable welcome and a congenial environment. For those who enjoy the more quiet and pleasurable forms of social life there is a finely-equipped men's Club, conveniently and comfortably furnished. The men also have their business and fraternal organizations, the various lodges being well represented. The women have an enterprising Improvement Society, and there are the various card clubs and literary clubs, one of which, the Cosey Reading Club, has held weekly meetings for the past fourteen seasons. There is also a dramatic society which presents occasional highly entertaining plays.

For those who enjoy music, Boonton is highly favored, for here are to be found both vocal and instrumental organizations of merit. A choral society of nearly one hundred voices, organized some years ago, holds weekly rehearsals under the direction of a well-known musical director from New York City, and these rehearsals, together with the concerts given each season, afford the choral members and their friends and a large and representative list of subscribers musical entertainments of a high order.



Photo by Wendl, Boonton.

View of Canal and River

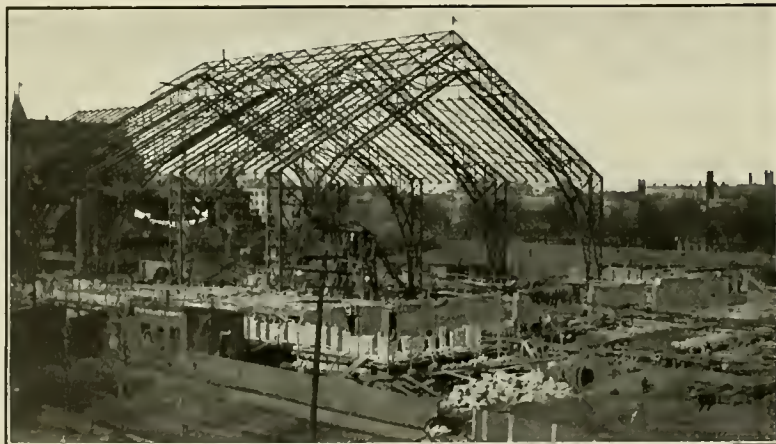


CRADLE OF THE IRON INDUSTRY IN AMERICA

This building stood on the site of the old forge at Old Boonton where cannon balls were made for the Continental Army. It was here where the iron from the adjacent mountains, carried on the backs of horses, was first smelted and forged. The site is now sixty feet under the waters of the Jersey City Reservoir

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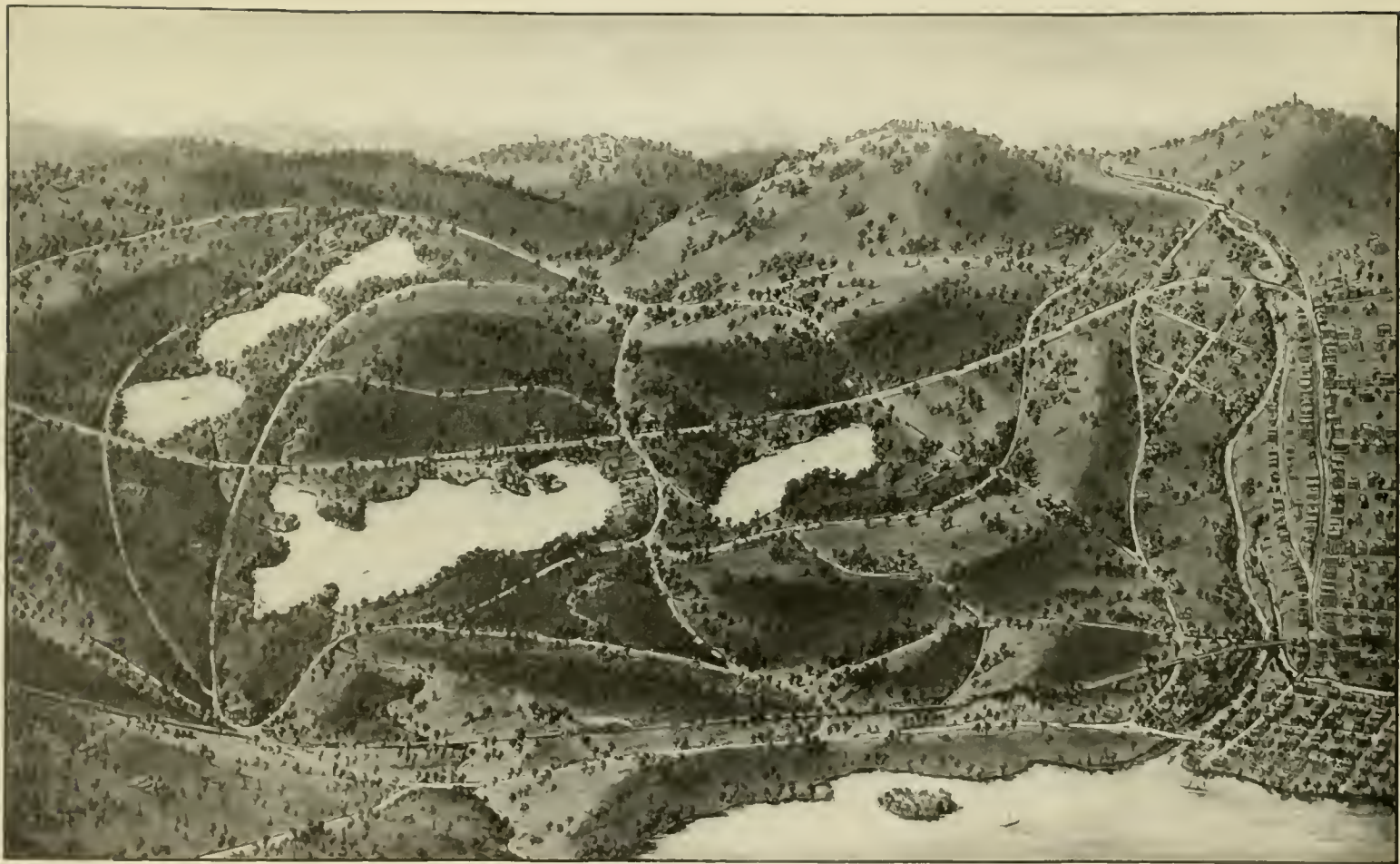
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WORKS AT BOONTON, N. J.

ATTRACTIONS TO THE HOMESEEKER

By HERBERT S. HITCHCOCK

FROM the standpoint of the homeseeker, the land buyer, and the real estate speculator few localities have been so favored with natural advantages as the neighborhood in and around Boonton or lie so directly in the line of tremendous growth which is pushing out with amazing rapidity toward this section of the State. Situated well up in the Kittitiny Range it enjoys an excellent climate throughout the year, the summer months being cool and pleasant and the winter season mild and healthful. Owing to the altitude and miles of surrounding wooded country the air at all times is dry, clear, and invigorating. Mountain springs furnish an unlimited supply of absolutely pure water and the entire locality is noted for its great scenic beauty. The Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad, considered the best commuting road out of New York City, in connection with the new tunnels, places Boonton within fifty-six minutes of the heart of that great metropolis and is fast becoming the most popular branch of rapid transit among the almost countless number of city and suburban dwellers who are leading the huge movement countryward which originated and has grown to such proportions within the last few years. In the past, the advance of realty values in Boonton has been of an exceedingly conservative nature, barely keeping pace with the increase of population and at no time commensurate with the true worth of our natural attractions, accessibility, healthy environment, beautiful surroundings and business activity. These features have recently become essential to thousands of homebuilders to whom Boonton will immediately appeal and every indication points to a large increase in population and a rapid rise in the price of property in this locality within the next year or two. A significant indication of what the future may hold in store is the recent purchase by the Mountain Lakes Company of a large tract of land containing about a thousand acres adjoining Boonton on the west and extending through to Fox Hill Station, which is being converted



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into a residential section comprising acreage estates with large country houses, permanent homes of the latest, most artistic designs, moderate in price and surrounded by ample grounds, and rustic, roomy cottages and bungalows, well-built, comfortable and attractive, picturesquely located on half-acre plots at vantage points among the lakes and hills. The corporation is controlled by men well-known in this line of activity who bring with them the reputation of being among the most successful builders and developers operating around New York, and the magnitude of the enterprise which they have started here at once marks it as one of greatest importance in the future growth of Boonton and surrounding territory. To the wonderful natural features now possessed by this property are added two lakes with a combined shore line of three and a half miles, which have already been built, and a splendid boulevard starting at West Main Street is being continued directly through it from east to west. Beautiful drives branching out in all directions have been laid out under the supervision of a skilled landscape architect, giving access to every section, and the Dover & Morristown Trolley line, in course of construction at the present time, will pass into Boonton directly across the center of the tract. Plans for a handsome club house with extensive grounds fronting on the larger lake have been approved and the preliminary work is already well under way. A complete water system is in process of installation and every modern convenience will be provided. Over two hundred laborers are now at work and a large force of carpenters and masons is already beginning the building of twenty-five houses and semi-bungalows which are to be ready for occupancy this year. The aim of the company is to establish at Mountain Lakes a high-class community of those people who desire to make their summer or permanent homes in a select, attractive locality within easy commuting distance of New York, where they can enjoy the freedom and beauty of the country amid picturesque mountains and beautiful lakes, without sacrificing the advantages which proximity to the city always affords, and to offer at prices well within the reach of all a wide variety of real homes, well planned and beautifully situated, complete in every detail, ready for occupancy the moment a selection has been made, and to provide all those public utilities and conveniences which are necessary to the ideal way of living.

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SEMI-BUNGALOW, HALF ACRE, \$3,800



MANOR HOUSE, FIVE ACRES, \$12,500

The above cuts show the three distinct types of houses for sale at Mountain Lakes. Twenty-five similar places are being constructed and will be ready for occupancy this year. The property is located only fifty-six minutes from Broadway, N. Y., on the Road of Anthracite, among the mountains of New Jersey. It contains several beautiful lakes with three miles of shore front. Fine old oak and chestnut trees cover the entire tract, splendid views stretch out for miles in every direction, and the superb altitude assures pure air and a delectable climate throughout the year. Water, electric lights and all modern conveniences are available. A trolley line runs through the entire tract, and there is a railroad station directly on the property.

MOUNTAIN LAKES, INC.: 170 BROADWAY, N. Y. C.

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MAR 23 1891

SURVEYS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
FURNISHED FOR

Water Supply, Dams, Factory Buildings, Foundations, Grading, Concrete Curb and Sidewalks

CONTRACTS TAKEN ON COMMISSION

LEWIS & M. R. VAN DUYNE

Civil Engineers and Contractors

Telephone 44-W

BOONTON, N. J.

L. & M. R. VAN DUYNE, C. E.'s and CONTRACTORS

What Has Lewis Van Duyne Done For Boonton?

When you look the Town over you will find the following marks of his energy:

The Water Supply System was planned and constructed by Mr. Lewis Van Duyne, who was made its president. The plant has been in successful operation since 1893.

The Hat Factory is another of our prominent institutions. The land was furnished, plans made, and factory

built by Lewis Van Duyne for Mercy Bros. & Co., and afterwards sold to the present owners, the Knox Hat Manufacturing Co., one of Boonton's prominent and valued industrial assets.

The General Storage Battery Co. was introduced to Boonton by Mr. Van Duyne, and its factory rebuilt on the Lord Estate, since which time the factory buildings have been enlarged and are now being operated by the Westinghouse people.

The Bronze Powder Works, operated by George Benda, was also constructed by Mr. Van Duyne, as was also the Boonton Gas Light & Improvement Co's gas mains.

West End Park was owned, developed and sold by Mr. Van Duyne.

Lewis Van Duyne first opened an office in Boonton in 1874, and is still in business, at the present time and during the last two years under the firm name of Lewis & M. R. Van Duyne.

This is certainly an enviable record of business energy and one which Mr. Van Duyne and his fellow citizens justly take pride in. And as a further illustration of the enterprise and energy possessed by the Van Duyne firm attention is now centered in the latest and by far the largest realty development ever attempted in Boonton, Mountain Lakes, which fittingly demonstrates there's nothing too large for the Van Duynes to undertake and carry to a successful finish.

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*Come when you will to Beonton—
'Twill be twice if you come at all—
In every season has beauty reason,
For her sweet insistent call.*

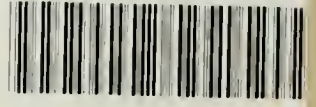
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