NORTH ADAMS; WHAT HAS IT GOT TODAY?

It is interesting to note the words of North Adams' first mayor, Hon. Albert C. Houghton. They were uttered during the year of 1897:

"In 1878 the town of North Adams began its independent existence. At that time the population was about ten thousand and it is now about twenty thousand. This increase of about one hundred per cent is due almost entirely to our industrial prosperity, attended as it has been by a corresponding increase in manufacturing plant and production. Many of the establishments now in operation have been built since 1878. All have been enlarged, some several times. Although the variety of our main industries has not especially increased there has been a constant improvement in the style and quality of the product. The goods that were saleable in 1878 could not be disposed of, nor could the economies of manufacture then practiced now save a concern from loss. It is therefore natural that we should regard our manufactures as the first source of our prosperity and that, considering what has been accomplished in that direction in the past fifteen years, we should look to the future with hopeful confidence."

The record of North Adams' growth and success is the history of her manufacturing industries. Our city is pre-eminently an industrial center. Had the sturdy pioneers not laid the foundations for our factories and had their successors not built upon these foundations successful structures by means of hard work and keen business ability plus tireless energy, the present City of North

(Continued, left column, Page 2)
Adams would be an impossibility. Such names as Arnold, Freeman, Brayton, Hunter and dozens of others both of the past and of the present are closely connected with the development of industrial activity which characterizes this city. Hand-in-hand with industry, we can take justified pride in our scenic surroundings which offer so many unusual opportunities for summer and winter sports. Hawthorne had the following to say about North Adams:

“Often it would seem a wonder how our road was to continue, the mountains rose so abruptly on either side, and stood so directly a wall across our onward course; while looking behind, it would be an equal mystery how we had gotten thither, through the huge base of the mountain that seemed to have reared itself erect after our passage. Between the mountains there were gorges that led the imagination away into new scenes of wildness. I have never driven through such romantic scenery, where there was such a variety and boldness of mountain shapes as this, and though it was a bright sunny day, the mountains diversified the view with sunshine and shadow, and glory and gloom”.

What if Hawthorne could return to ride through Hoosac Tunnel!! What if he learned that this monster bore through the solid rock of Hoosac Mountain was 26 feet wide, 26 feet high, and nearly 5 miles long? What if he had lived to know this tunnel, started in 1851, took 24 years to complete, — at a cost of 195 human lives and over $20,000,000?

A little known fact is that the original plates for the iron-clad “Monitor” were cast from iron mined at the foot of old Greylock. Farther back, — during Thomas Jefferson’s administration, iron bars were smelted for gunboat anchors for the U. S. Navy. One of the first, if not the first, sewing machines in this country was invented by Allen B. Wilson in North Adams nearly a century ago.

James Hunter Machine Company: Operating on the same site as its small beginnings in 1847, this company sends its modern textile equipment not only to all parts of this country and Canada, but to Europe, Asia, South America, New Zealand, Australia, etc. Possibly the fabric in your suit, topcoat or overcoat was partially processed on Hunter machinery! Or maybe the cotton felt in your mattress was garnetted and inserted into its ticking on Hunter mattress equipment. The cotton or woolen blanket under which you slept probably knew Hunter machines in its long travel from raw wool to finished cloth. The insulation in your car and the hair and jute liner under your rugs, — the jute felts in your slippers, the cartridge waddings in your shotgun shells were undoubtedly made possible by Hunter Needle Looms, Garnetts and Dryers.

Wall-Streeter Shoe Company: This concern has produced fine shoes for men ever since 1912. Constantly on the alert for better methods and machines, they installed the “school” system in their Fitting Department. This step toward continuous flow operation completes the modernization of one of the finest shoe factories in Massachusetts. You will find Wall-Streeter shoes nationally advertised in magazines; telling buyers all over the country of the outstanding styles and top quality made available by this well-known North Adams enterprise.
Greylock Mountain,—highest of Massachusetts peaks (3,505 feet)—on a winter day. A cooling scene for summer days! A well-graveled auto road winds its way to the summit, where stands the beautiful War Memorial Beacon. Maybe, during the winter, we can publish a scene of Greylock on a hot summer’s day, —just to be different!

WHERE PATHS CROSS . . . .

"AFTER HOURS"

Golf, Tennis, Hiking, Fishing, Hunting, Riding, Bicycling, Skiing, Skating; — take your choice; — within a “stone’s throw” of your North Adams job.

Did you ever strike out on the Long Trail, starting at North Adams and extending to the Canadian border at North Troy, Vermont, following the Green Mountain ridge and dotted by overnight shelters in the wilderness. Ever follow any of the fine foot trails to Greylock’s summit or wander off on any of the shaded paths through the woods of North Berkshire. Many Sprague people drop their lines in the trout streams of North Berkshire and follow the Mohawk Trail to Charlemont where, in the Deerfield, a trout isn’t legal until he’s 12 inches long. When Old Man Winter comes to us again, many a “Sprague-ite” will be off to the ski-runs. Did you know that the Thunderbolt run on Mt. Greylock is one of the steepest, fastest ski runs in the country. If you want to take it easier, there’s Bernard’s hill, Notch hill, Savoy State Forest run, Mohawk Trail run near the Elk monument, and others.

Many times a visitor to North Adams will point out scenes or views which we “natives” have “taken for granted” through the years of our residence in North Adams. There’s an old saying that fits this picture. It goes something like this: “I got so far into the woods, I missed seeing the trees.” About a year ago, a Mr. Lee Sherman Cass wrote the following about our city:

“Any article dealing with North Adams would be incomplete without some definite mention of its exceptional year-round vacational and recreational opportunities. Situated in the higher and more rugged northern fingers of the Taconic and Hoosac ranges, North Adams offers the motorist, the hiker, the writer, the poet, the artist, or the musician an inspirational panorama of sky and hill and forest that is unsurpassed in the East. A vista so lovely, in any season, that such well-known names in American literature as Hawthorne, Thoreau, Emerson, Marion Crawford, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Bryant, Washington Irving, Thomas Moore and a host of others have visited it and found much inspiration.”

“Much planning and much money have been spent to develop modern ski runs, tows and trails. The “Thunderbolt” run on Greylock has no equal in the East. Main roads are kept open and there are special tourist trains from Boston and other points. If you come to buy or to sell, to play or to work, North Adams extends you a friendly hand.”

The call of the wild and the fishing season opened up annual debates on Worms versus Flies and the relative merits of different lures, silver minnows and the rest. Guide books tell us that in Northern Berkshire the rivers are the Green, the Cold, the Deerfield, the north branch of the Hoosac. "Toward the center of the county, brooks are the thing. Try Hoop Brook, Sackett Brook, Richmond Furnace Brook and the Secum Brook. Open water fishing — bass, pickerel, perch, and hornpout means going to Cheshire Lake, Onota Lake, Pontoosuc, Stockbridge Bowl, Lake Ashmere, Benedict Pond or many of the other smaller lakes and ponds.

NO,— IT WASN’T LUCK!

When the two headings of Hoosac Tunnel met on November 27, 1874, there was a variation of only nine-sixteenths of an inch!! 2,000,000 tons of rock were excavated. The first train thru was on February 9, 1875.

The resident population of North Adams today is 23,000, but it enjoys a trading population of over 60,000. We are located only 166 miles from New York City and 142 miles from Boston. During any season, one can see autos bearing license plates of many distant states.

HOME

Do you know where we like to stray
At the end of a tiresome, weary day .
It might be to a tumble-down shack
On the other side of the railroad track.
Or maybe to a mansion way up on a hill
To look at it always gives us a thrill.

We all like to travel, to wander or roam
But our feet always lead us to the place we call “HOME”.

So don’t listen to others — to the stories they say.
Of the good times they have while they are away.
For deep down in their hearts they wish they could say
‘I’m going home at the end of the day’.

— Frances Ditursi (Pretuner Dept.)

A rare old photo of Hairpin Turn on the famous Mohawk Trail. Take a good look at the old cars in this scene. Tough climb up,— in those days. But times have changed, and so have cars, — eh, what?
DID YOU KNOW THAT

A job in industry today is backed by an investment on the average 242 per cent greater than 40 years ago!

America's most prolific living inventor is Carleton Ellis, Montclair, N. J. At 63 he has received patents on 750 inventions, compared to 1099 for Edison. He is particularly outstanding for his patents on quick-drying paint.

If all the patents applied for by American inventors in 1939 flowed into the U. S. Patent Office in a steady stream, there would be one every two minutes, 40 hours a week for 52 weeks.

More than 8 acres of space are required to house the voluminous records kept by the U. S. Patent Office. The office has issued more than 2 million patents.

To produce the amount of light used monthly by the average American family with electricity, more than half a ton of candles, costing $346.65, would be required.

When safety pins were first put on the market, they cost 10 cents a dozen. Improved production methods have reduced costs so that now 50 can be bought for a dime.

While a six cylinder car is traveling 10,000 miles, the condenser on the spark plug coil contact points in the distributor is charged and discharged 90,000,000 times!

In the U. S. we have 1 automobile for each 43½ persons; in England the ratio is 1 to 25; Germany, 1 to 55; Russia, a car to 322 persons.

The score in radios is: U. S. 253 radios per 1,000 persons; Britain, 216; Germany, 129; France, 93; Italy, about 21; and Russia, hardly more than 2. We have about half the world's bathtubs and telephones; about a third of the world's highways, and more than a third of its railways.

U. S. labor is the highest paid in the world. A worker in America earns enough in one hour to buy 2.83 baskets of food, while for the same amount of work the English or Belgian worker earns only enough to buy 1.11 baskets, and the German worker 1.02 baskets.

We have only about 6 per cent of the earth's population, but a purchasing power and standard of living which enable us to use half of the world's coffee, rubber, and tin; one-third of its electric power, and two-thirds of its crude oil.

WHAT HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS MEAN TO US

The number of hours an average factory worker had to work to pay for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>in 1914</th>
<th>in 1938</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automobile</td>
<td>4,514.2</td>
<td>1,098.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric washing machine</td>
<td>187.2</td>
<td>62.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric fan</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-piece bedroom suite</td>
<td>104.3</td>
<td>65.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year's supply of clothing</td>
<td>708.5</td>
<td>304.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man's felt hat (Family of 4)</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE YEARS DESPITE BUSINESS UPS AND DOWNS

CONSTANT research, careful development, and wide experimentation go on throughout the good old U. S. A. The "days of pioneering" are by no means over for America and Americans. There's always something new under the sun. For instance, only a short while ago, more than 100 American firms reported that their production men and research workers recently had developed — or have well on the way — some 250 new products and processes. Many of these will touch our daily lives — the things we eat and wear, the way we get from place to place, and the use we make of our leisure hours.

Progress through research means new opportunities as well as more of the things that make for better living. As new things are developed, new tools and new plants are needed and more men employed to make the new products. Also, millions of dollars are put to work through useful investment in plant equipment and other business needs. Just give some thought to the chart above, — and figure it out for yourself.

Of course there are seasonal swings due to the buying habits of consumers as the result of weather or climate. There are also business cycle peaks and valleys that have occurred from time to time ever since history began.

With the discovery of a new product or process, the work is only half done! Then comes the important job of making the fruits of research available to people who need and want the things that make for better living. There's the job of finding and preparing the right raw materials, the job of designing and making tools and machines that will produce the product, the job of establishing factories and arranging for dealers and salesmen, — the job of securing working capital — and then the job of managing the entire enterprise so it will be successful and can continue to pass the benefits on to a constantly greater number of people.

Forward steps in one industry or in one field of research usually make possible important advances in other fields. It took thousands of years before a means of individual transportation was discovered that was faster than a horse could run. But it took only about 40 years from the first horseless buggy to the modern streamlined automobile. As a matter of fact, our own condenser business, — indeed our entire organization wouldn't even be a dream today if it were not for the development of hundreds of other products such as the radio, the auto, the refrigerator, and so on.

In America, — yes, in North Adams, — we're still pioneering. What comes next depends upon all of us, — and each of us, — for in this country, every citizen makes his own job worse or better by building up or tearing down. Or he can simply stick his head, like the ostrich, into the sands of "I don't care" . . . . and "I wont think".

"JUST AN IDEA!"

It was just an "idea" — that was all that he had — Columbus — those ages ago.
It was just an "idea" — but we ought to be glad. For it gave us our country, you know.
It was just an "idea" in George Stephenson's mind When he saw the steam jostle the kettle, But the railroads made brothers of all mankind With their wonderful horses of metal
It was just an "idea" Thomas Edison caught But the light without flame we got from it.

With another "idea" was the phonograph brought. —
And the "movies" that came like a comet.
So — next time you hear someone say, with a sneer, "I'll not pay for that — for it's just an idea!"
Remind him there isn't a thing that he uses That doesn't date back to this source he abuses.
And tell him there isn't a tool or machine That he handles, or works with, or ever has seen But he'll find, if he troubles to trace it, began As "just an idea" in the brain of a man. — Author Unknown
THE SPRAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM, 1939

In the front row, from left to right: "Sammy" Dean, George Scarbo, "Hank" Gamari, Manager, "Ken" Russell, Ray Fawcett.


SPRAGUE'S SINGLE ADJUSTMENT PUSH BUTTON TUNER

Our CX-52 Push Button Tuner Assembly pictured above gives the radio world an outstanding advance in the art of capacitor type push button tuning. Both antenna and oscillator condensers can be simultaneously adjusted by turning a single large screw making it now possible for radio dealers to set up station tunings in the home without an oscillator and without previous experience.

Not only are minimum capacity losses smaller than in previous assemblies, but stability under varied temperatures and humidities has been improved. The usual Sprague moisture and heat protection is provided and up to six stations may be set up on the tuner.

Stanley Dorst at our Laboratory electric furnace pouring hot test enamel from crucible.

ELIMINATION OF A SPRAGUE CUSTOMER'S COMPLAINT

We are proud to reprint the contents of a letter dated June 29, 1939 to us:

"On my last trip to North Adams, I discussed with you the method of packing condensers for the Ford Motor Company as well as the testing and inspection of the ignition condensers. After going thru the plant with you and talking to the men who were responsible for the packing, checking and inspection, a decided change was made by you. I wish to advise that since that time, we have not had one complaint regarding packing, inspection and testing. The writer believes that this is an outstanding accomplishment and merits mention to both the inspectors, the workmen and yourself.

"I am writing this letter to you because I feel that favorable comments when customer's complaints are eliminated should be called to your attention. Seldom does one mention the good things but always brings up the bad. (*)

"Thanking you for the splendid cooperation I have received in the past six months, I am

Very truly yours,"

(Signed) B. J. Fitzner
Detroit Sales Office

(*) How right you are, Mr. Fitzner! — Ye Ed.

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THANK YOU
We wish to thank, through the "Log," all Sprague employees for the kindness and expressions of sympathy extended us at the time of Harry's illness and passing. To those who so willingly offered their blood, especially Mr. Breen who was chosen to give for the transfusion; — to those who furnished cars; — the Maintenance Dept. for flowers and to all who assisted us in so many ways. To each and every one we are deeply grateful.

(Signed) Mrs. Harry Atwell and family.

HARRY ATWELL
We bow in deep submission,
And say, "Thy will be done".
For a faithful worker taken
For another associate gone.
Yes, another link is missing,
In our friendship chain.
Another tie is severed,
To be joined in Heaven again.

IN MEMORY of Harry Atwell, who died following an operation July 23, 1939. His biography appeared in a past issue of the "Log". 

Clarence SWEENEY
Raymond TREMBLAY
Emily CARDIMINO

Irene MORRIS, Paper Assembly
Not employed here
Pretuner
To be in Sept.

Rita LAPINE
George BENOIT
Laura VINCENLETTE
Harold TOURJEE
Eleanor ALLEN
Arthur CARON
Doris CHONARD
Arthur MOLLEUR
Anita MULCAHY
Ippol BONGIOLATTI
Rachel GIROUX
Alvin MARSH
Beatrice PELTIER

Sample Dept.
Sample Dept.
Mica Dept.
Mica Dept.
Paper Rolling
Paper Assembly
Maintenance Dept.
Not employed here
D. C. Rolling
Not employed here
Office
Not employed here
Paper Test

Raymond BISHOP
Irene MORRIS
Raymond TREMBLAY
Emily CARDIMINO

To be Aug. 26
To be in Sept.

BIRTHS
July 10 A SON to Mr. and Mrs. Edgar REMILLARD.
Father works in Pretuner Dept.

July 21 A SON to Mr. and Mrs. David MORTON.
Mother is Evelyn of Final Test.

July 24 A DAUGHTER to Mr. and Mrs. Bruno GIUSTI.
Mother is Geraldine of Paper Assembly.

August 2 A DAUGHTER to Mr. and Mrs. Silvio VOLPI.
Mother is Mary of Paper Assembly.

August 9 TWIN SONS to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew BROOKS.
Mother is Eleanor of Boxing Dept.
Babies, both weighing 7 lbs.

GOLF TOURNEY — Continued
This tourney was a huge success due to the efforts of all Club officials, Greens Committees, and Don Vinton (our Club Pro.), and guests, — also the caddies ("God Bless 'em").

SPRAGUE EMPLOYEES SINCE 1930 OR BEFORE
SPRAGUE LOG

August, 1939

THE FIRST MOTORCYCLE, invented by W.W. Austin, of Winthrop, Mass., in 1868, was driven by steam! The boiler was suspended amidsthip.

More than 1500 patented inventions are incorporated in the modern automobile — an evidence of industry's efforts to build a constantly better product. In 1926, Government in the U.S. collected 4 1/2 cents for each dollar earned by corporate enterprises — latest figures showed the burden had risen to $1.11.

Send in your snap-shots for the next "Log" early. They will be returned shortly . . . . unharmed.

AN EDITORIAL

HOW IMPORTANT IS YOUR JOB? (A bit of "horse sense")

A lot of us want to do what we call important work. Yet, when we read an account of the life of one whose work has become famous, we find that he labored day and night, — for a number of years quite unnoticed by all but a few close associates. His work was just as important then as it was later when he was acclaimed. If he had not done that work well, he would not have been able to carry out the bigger things later on.

So for this reason (as well as others), every job is important. Doing the smaller jobs well forms the foundation of knowledge and work habits so vitally necessary for larger jobs. The importance of our tasks depends to a great extent on how well we do them and how much of ourselves we put into them. If we continually try to improve our ability to do our work and to improve the work itself, then our job is important because it is preparing us for bigger things ahead.

Send in your snap-shots for the next "Log" early. They will be returned shortly . . . . unharmed.

SPRAGUE LIFE IN PICTURES

From left to right: Children of William Davis (Paper Rolling). Harvey and William. On the pony is William J. Sullivan, son of Esther of Paper Assembly. Dolores Davis and her dog, Chubby. Dolores is the daughter of Lucy (Pretuner Dept.). Fair lady on the sands of Hampton Beach, N. H. is Alma Finardi (West Assembly). The Cascades, one of North Adams beauty spots, popular for picnics and swimming parties. Frank Gregalis (Wet Test) also repose on the sands of Hampton Beach. John Puppolo (Chemical Control Dept.) cooking at a Sunday picnic (with his wife telling him how!) Mass. Memorial Beacon atop Greylock Mtn. During migration period of birds, its light is dimmed because of so many being blinded and killed. Paul Bergreen (Ovens Dept.) and Dorothy Daval Bergreen on their wedding day, June 17, '39. Raymond Bishop and Rita Lapine (Sample Dept.) married in Notre Dame Church, July 15, '39. Jack Shields (Mica) and Mary Rice (not employed here), married July 1 in St. Francis Church. Arthur Molleur and Anita Mulcahy, married Aug. 5, '39.

A glimpse into another Sprague customer's plant. This is inside the Rochester, N. Y. factory of the Stromberg-Carlton Telephone Manufacturing Company manufacturers of telephone and radio apparatus; cables and supplies.