

# MANCHESTER'S STEADY GROWTH

Due to Prosperous Industries and Good Transportation Facilities.

ORIGINAL VILLAGES GROWING INTO ONE LARGE COMMUNITY.

Central Post Office Building Soon to Be Erected at Cost of \$75,000 to \$100,000.

The town of Manchester is modest. It has ever been unobtrusive. Quietly it has gone about its work, asking few favors from outsiders, attending strictly to its own business and gloriing not in its achievements. It has spent its public money conservatively and kept its taxes low. The rate this year is nine and a half mills on the dollar. It has avoided heavy debts. Its present indebtedness of only \$85,000 as compared with its grand list of \$18,000,000 is insignificant. This debt is funded at four per cent and is being reduced \$5,000 every year. But through careful expenditures and not given to extravagant display, Manchester has not denied itself the necessities, nor the comforts of life. A glance through the pages of this paper will reveal living conditions of excep-



American Writing Paper Company's Plant

ional comfort and healthfulness. The statistics of the state board of health show that the death rate per thousand in Manchester is lower than that of any town in the state of equal size or larger. This has been true for several successive years. The last census, taken in 1910, gave Manchester a population of 13,641. A conservative estimate at the present time places the population between 15,000 and 16,000.

Manchester is a patch of land five miles square located on the eastern foothills of the Connecticut valley nine miles east of Hartford, the state capital. This patch of land tilts toward the river, its lower edge being about 200 feet above sea level and its higher or eastern edge about 400 feet above sea level. Extending from this slope near the river and its area is a cross ridge roughly dividing the town into north and south halves. Down the slope in the north half flows the Hockanum river; in the south half flows a much smaller stream known as Hop brook. Each of these streams was originally contributory to the establishment of the town, for they tempted small manufacturers to locate their water wheels here and build beside them their mills. The expansion of the mills thus founded has been the main cause for the growth of the population, while the high character of the pioneer manufacturers has left its impress upon the character of the town to this day.

For many years this ridge dividing the town kept the two sections apart. There was a North Manchester and a South Manchester, each with own post office, its schools, its churches. But in recent years this barrier has literally broken down. The telephone hill which our forefathers had to

## PAPER MAKING AT OAKLAND VILLAGE.

Model Plant of American Writing Paper Company.

HAS LONG HISTORY AND GIVES STEADY WORK.

Formerly Made Fine Writing Paper. Now Home of Celebrated Hercules Covers.

While Manchester is celebrated chiefly for its silk industry, it has also from its beginning held an important place in the paper trade. Nearly all kinds of paper have been

years, three generations being engaged in the business. William and Philip W. Hudson, sons of Melancthon Hudson, were the last of this family to be connected with the property. During the later years of their management Cheney Brothers were associated with them and large government orders for fine papers were filled. The mill was put in first class condition and the village was beautified. The landscape features introduced at that time have since ripened and now the village of Oakland, with its grand old trees and broad lawns, is one of the most beautiful sections of the town.

The Oakland Paper Company succeeded the Hudsons and the mill was for many years operated by this company under the management of Nathan T. Pulsifer, and had a large trade in writing and envelope papers. In 1839 the American Writing Paper company, which was formed to take over a chain of paper mills, bought the Oakland mill and R. G. Campbell was made local manager. Since that time the mill has been practically rebuilt, wooden buildings being replaced with brick. At the present time a new machine room is in process of construction. Under the ownership of the American Writing Paper company this mill has special-ized in cover papers. It is the home of the celebrated Hercules covers which have a world-wide reputation. It has been one of the most staple of Manchester's industries, as since the American Writing Paper company took it, it had been run continuously on practically full time. It employs 60 hands and produces three and one-half tons of cover papers a day. Its goods find a market all over the world.

Post Offices in Manchester.

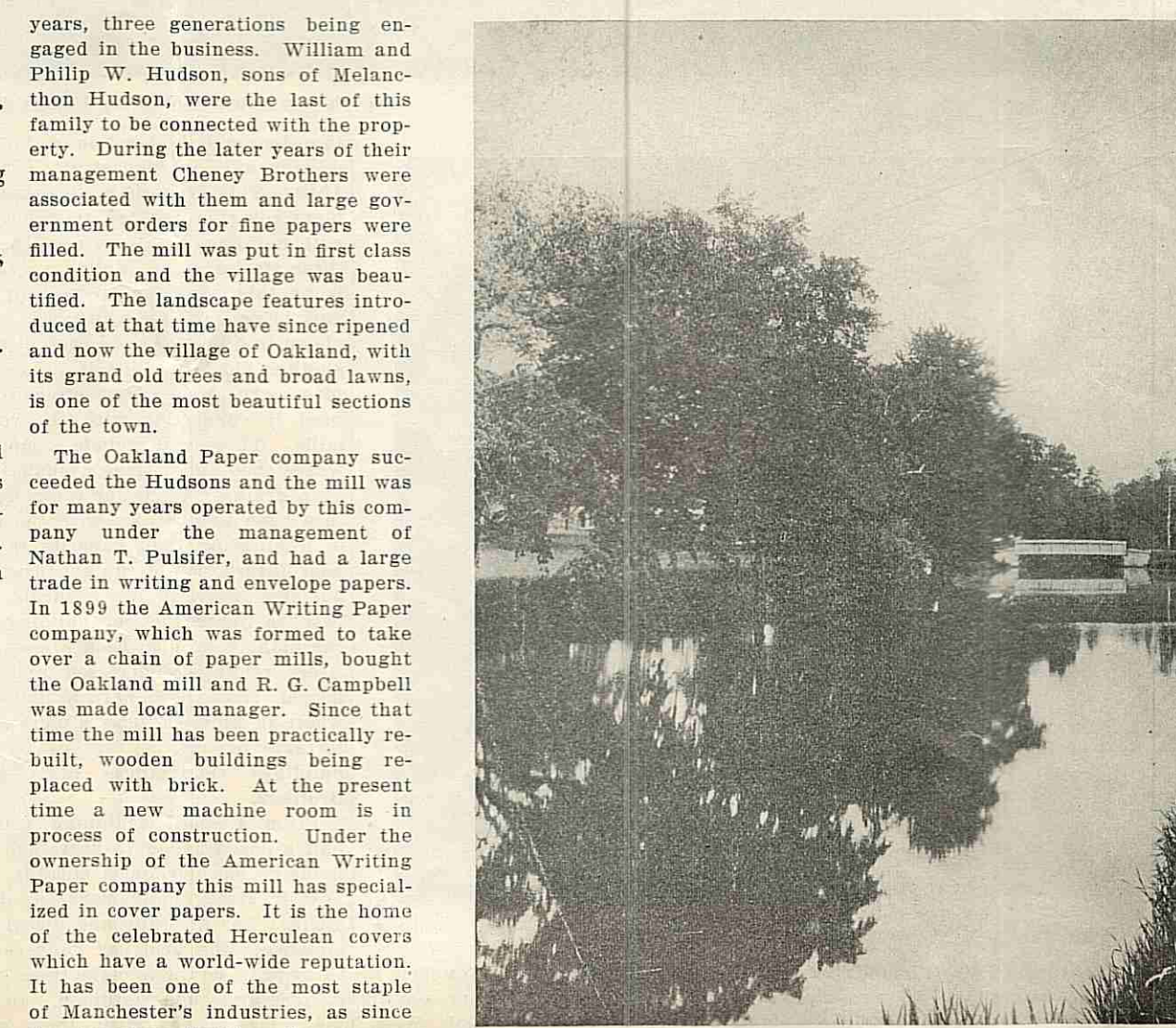
The town of Manchester has at present five post offices, located at Manchester, South Manchester, Highland Park, Manchester Green and Buckland. The post office at Manchester Green is the oldest in town and for many years was the only one. It was established in 1808 and until the town was incorporated in 1833 it bore the name of Orford parish. It was then changed to Manchester and was made Manchester Green about 1833.

The next post office in town was at Buckland in 1840. It remains unchanged and in practically the same location today. A post office was established at Oakland in 1841. It remained there until the completion of the railroad in 1850. Then it was moved to what was then known as Union village, near the depot, and the name was changed to Manchester station. It was subsequently changed to North Manchester, but the confusion between the name of the post office and that of the railroad station, which was Manchester, resulted in the final adoption of the name Manchester for

made in this town, from the news print on which was printed the Connecticut Current containing the news of the battle of Lexington up to the finest bond papers at one time made by Hudson & Cheney at the Oakland paper mill. Nearly every grade of paper has at one time or another been made in Manchester. The finest grades have always had their home at the Oakland mill. This mill is located on the Hockanum river in a most picturesque locality. It was first used as a paper mill in 1832 when Henry Hudson of Hartford purchased of Joseph Loomis the water privilege already occupied by a saw-mill and grist mill.

The Oakland paper mills were managed by the Hudsons for 30 years, three generations being engaged in the business. William and Philip W. Hudson, sons of Melancthon Hudson, were the last of this family to be connected with the property. During the later years of their management Cheney Brothers were associated with them and large government orders for fine papers were filled. The mill was put in first class condition and the village was beautified. The landscape features introduced at that time have since ripened and now the village of Oakland, with its grand old trees and broad lawns, is one of the most beautiful sections of the town.

Next Tuesday's Herald will contain an illustrated account of the Home-land day celebration. The doings of literally broken down. The telephone hill which our forefathers had to

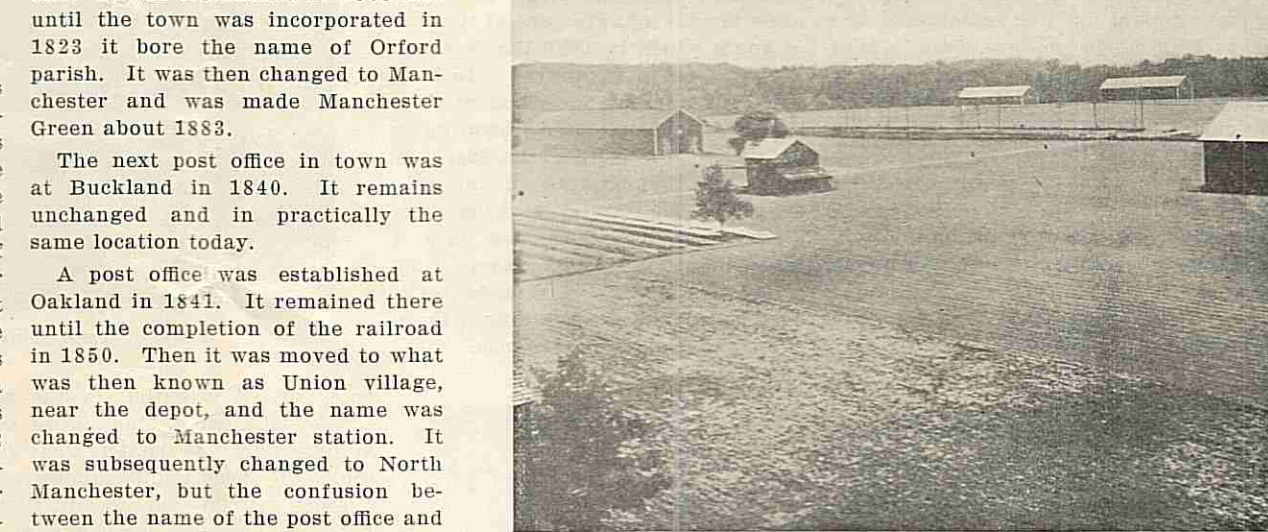


Oakland Bridge, Near American Writing Paper Company's Plant

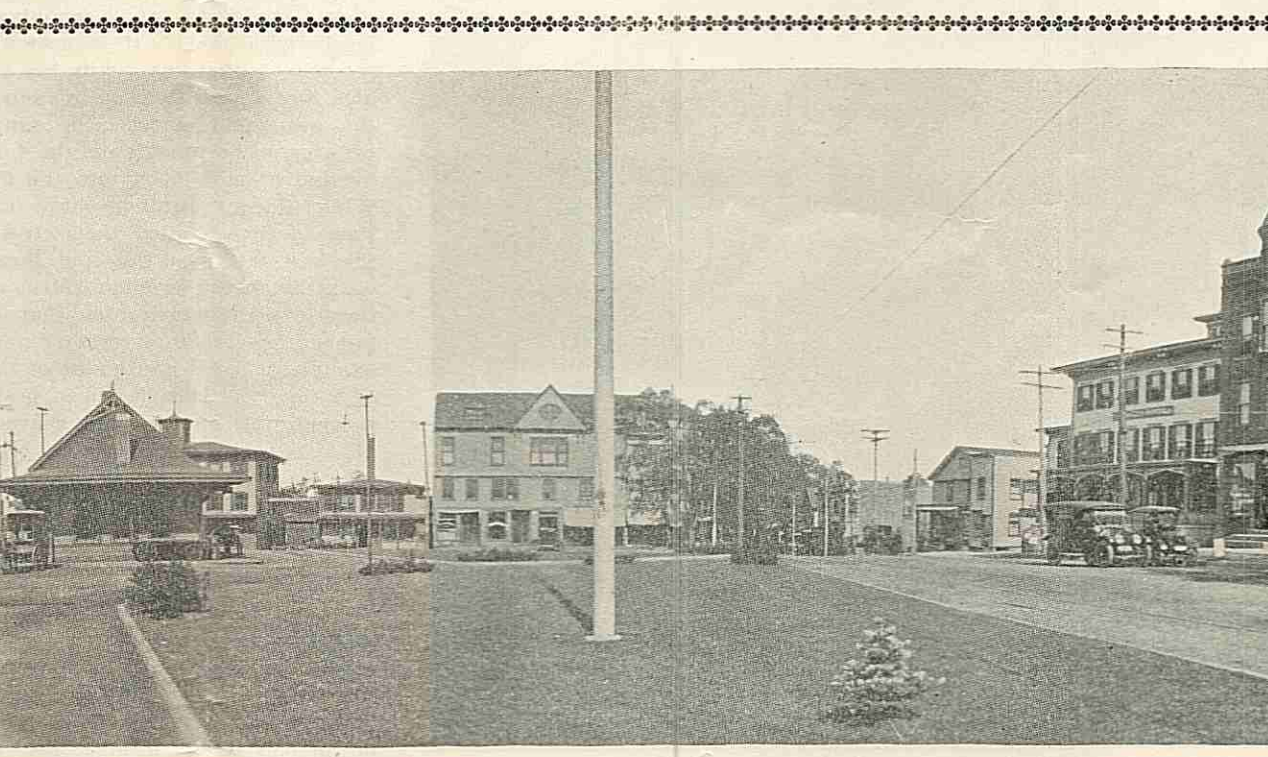
the post office, and the post office has continued to increase until now it amounts to about \$25,000 a year. The force employed includes the postmaster, assistant postmaster, four clerks, six carriers, two substitutes and two rural free delivery carriers.

The Highland Park post office was the latest to be established. It began business July 1, 1889. B. S. Carrier has been postmaster since 1906.

Hackett Brothers Large Growers. Hackett Brothers are the largest tobacco growers in Manchester. They have become so in the last few years. Born in Wapping, John H. Hackett and Thomas A. Hackett were brought up in the heart of the tobacco raising district. They raised more or less tobacco at the old homestead in Wapping, and 10 years ago came to Manchester, where they bought the 10 acre lot belonging to the Gallup farm. From this period their business has grown very rapidly. In 1906 Hackett Brothers bought the Charles H. Owen property on North Main street. This farm comprised 40 acres and had a large house and stock barn. The new owners remodeled the large barn into a warehouse and for two or three years did a packing and storing business. In the spring of 1913 Hackett Brothers bought 17½ acres from Walter W. Cowles. This lot adjoined their present farm and all was of the best tobacco land. Last fall they again added 50 acres of the J. B. Barron farm, south of the railroad tracks, and have this spring



A Portion of the Hackett Plantation Showing Four of the Eleven Large Tobacco Sheds



The Hackett Residence and Warehouse

## TOBACCO GROWING

A Profitable Industry Which is Extending Rapidly in West Part of Manchester.

Manchester is located within six miles of the most fertile tract of tobacco land in the United States. It is said that the tobacco grown in a certain district of South Windsor commands a higher price in the market than any tobacco raised in the United States. While small tracts of tobacco have been raised in Manchester for many years, it is only recently that it has been discovered that much of the land in the western part of the town can be used profitably for that purpose. Whereas ten years ago there was probably less than 40 acres of land in Manchester devoted to the growth of tobacco, it is estimated that fully 300 acres are now used for that crop and the acreage is increasing every year.

This change is due not only to the discovery of the fertility of the soil, but also to the improved methods of growing. Farmers now go into tobacco raising on a scientific basis and use machinery for planting and cultivating. They guard against insect pests by sterilizing the soil in which the young plants are grown and using insecticides on the plant as it is placed in the field. These and other precautions they hasten the growth of the crop and are less likely to suffer by early frosts than formerly. In curing tobacco also new methods have been adopted. Tobacco growing is more profitable than it formerly was and consequently more and more farmers are making tobacco a specialty.

Eastern Star Chapters to Meet at Compoance Monday. The Connecticut Eastern Star chapters will hold their 33rd annual outing at Lake Compoance Monday, August 31, and members have the privilege of inviting their friends. The business meeting will be held at eleven o'clock in the hall over the dining room. An interesting program will be arranged, consisting of instrumental and vocal music, readings and addresses. Dinner will be served to all who desire at 1.30 by the proprietor for 75 cents.

Masons Will Meet at Savin Rock. The 44th annual gathering of the Connecticut Masonic Veterans' association will be held at Savin Rock Thursday, June 25. The business meeting will open at Wilcox's opera house at near eleven o'clock as possible. Dinner will be served at Frank Wilcox's restaurant, just across the street from the opera house, at one o'clock. The brethren of Annavan Lodge, No. 115, have invited the members of the association to stop on the way down from New Haven and visit their new Masonic temple at West Haven and also partake of some light refreshments before going to the Rock.

broken up 20 acres of this on which to grow Connecticut broadleaf. They have a farm of about 120 acres and expect this year to raise between 60 and 65 acres of tobacco. They give steady employment to 15 to 20 hands the year round.

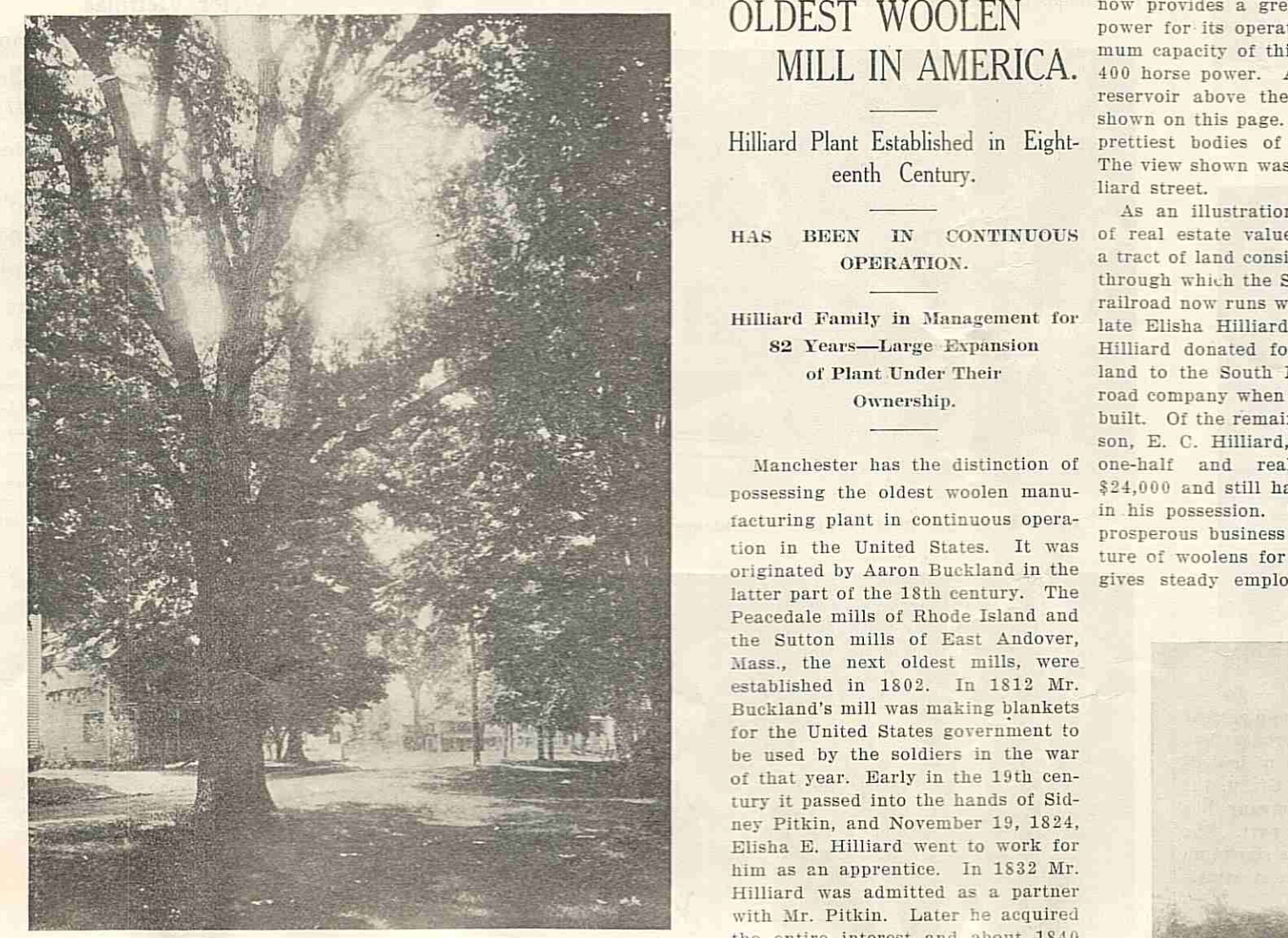
Hackett Brothers not only raise tobacco, but they buy and sell it. Last year the firm handled about 300 cases of Connecticut broadleaf. They dispose of the crops of tobacco they handle both to the manufacturers and to the jobbers. They are known throughout Connecticut as men of good business ability, of sterling character and hard workers. Both men have great confidence in the future of the tobacco industry. They believe that the business is yet in its infancy. Thomas J. Hackett lives in the large Owen house on the farm and his brother, John H., who recently sold the old homestead and farm in Wapping to Everett C. Griswold of Rocky Hill, is with his two sisters making his home temporarily in East Hartford. Mr. Hackett is having plans prepared for a residence east of the present Hackett house on North Main street.

Hackett Brothers believe that the land in Manchester, especially in the Buckland district and south of it, is suitable for tobacco growing. The soil, which is of a light, sandy loam, runs very even and is exceptionally good for Connecticut broadleaf. The fact that the acreage has grown from 40 to 300 acres in 10 years is evidence that the business has a bright future. In this course, in this business as in very other it requires brains, plenty of careful work and some capital to get a start, and with these requirements and a fair amount of good luck prosperity is assured.

Big Fortunes Pass. (Philadelphia Record.) For those who fear the influence of colossal fortunes, such as those of the Astors, Vanderbilts, Goulds, Rockefellers and Morgans, upon the future of the United States, both economically and socially, there should be no little consolation in the present plight of the Missouri Pacific railroad. This is known as a Gould road, control of it having been secured by the late Jay Gould, and the financial troubles into which it has fallen are typical of those which descended upon nearly all the properties left by that most unscrupulous

captain of industry to the incapable generation that succeeded him. From the feeble hands of the sons, unable to wield the power bequeathed to them, there have passed in turn the Western Union Telegraph company, the Wabash, the Lake Erie and Western and the Western Maryland railroads, the Wabash-Pittsburg terminal and the Manhattan Railway company. Before long it is expected that the Missouri Pacific, the Rio Grande and Western, and the Western Pacific railroads will follow the same course.

One may regret the misfortune of these corporations and the distress which they bring upon innocent stockholders, but it is distinctly pleasing to see them released from the grip of a family unable to manage them properly.



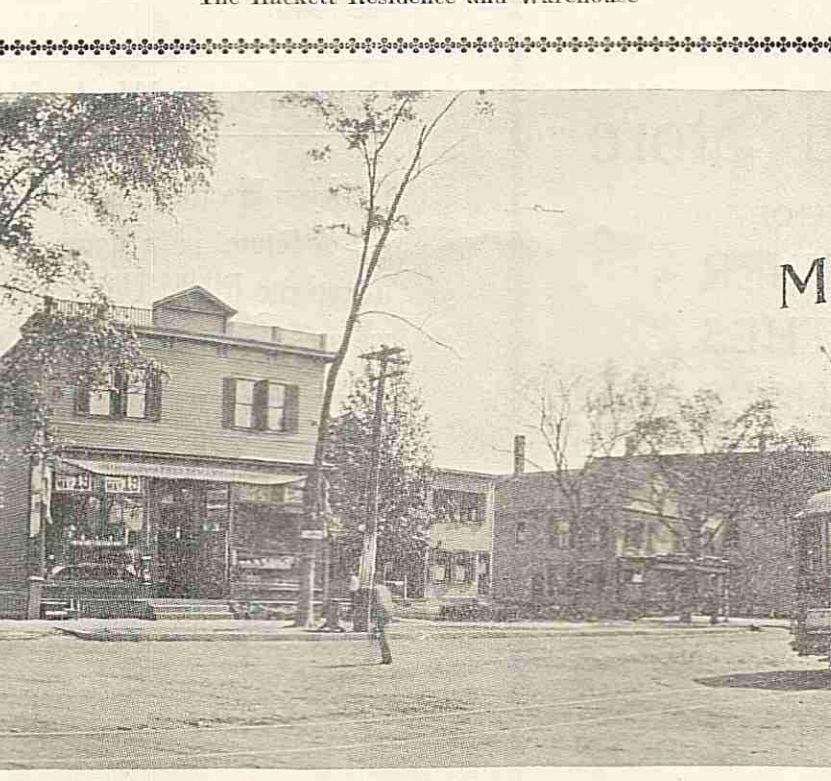
Glimpse of Hilliard Village

Woolen Mill of the E. E. Hilliard Company (Buckland P. O.)

Improvements in Factory Construction. In the old days of manufacturing in Manchester woollen factory buildings were the rule. These were very inflammable and sooner or later most of them yielded to fire. Paper mills were especially vulnerable. No less than a score of them in the history of this town have been burned. Some of them were never rebuilt. Those that have been rebuilt were constructed of brick or concrete. Now the Hilliard woollen mill and the knitting mill at Manchester Green are the only woollen factories of any size which survive. All the paper mills in town are of brick or concrete. As a result of this improvement in construction, paper mill fires, which once were so common, are now almost unknown and when they do start are speedily controlled.



The Hilliard Mill 40 Years Ago



The Hilliard Mill 40 Years Ago

# MANCHESTER'S DEBT TO IMMIGRATION

Tenfold Growth Due Mainly to Foreign Influx

NEW COMERS HAVE MADE GOOD CITIZENS

Have Introduced New Ideas in Manufacturing and in Agriculture. Eager to Learn Our Language and Customs.

## OLDEST WOOLEN MILL IN AMERICA.

Hilliard Plant Established in Eighteenth Century.

HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUS OPERATION.

Hilliard Family in Management for 82 Years—Large Expansion of Plant Under Their Ownership.

Manchester has the distinction of possessing the oldest woollen manufacturing plant in continuous operation in the United States. It was undaunted by the shocks of the latter part of the 18th century. The Peaseade mills of Rhode Island and the Sutton mills of East Andover, Mass., the next oldest mills, were established in 1802. In 1812 Mr. Buckland's mill was making blankets for the United States government to be used by the soldiers in the war of that year. Early in the 19th century it passed into the hands of Sidney Pitkin, and November 19, 1824, Elisha E. Hilliard went to work for him as an apprentice. In 1832 Mr. Hilliard was admitted as a partner with Mr. Pitkin. Later he acquired the entire interest and about 1840 admitted Ralph G. Spencer to partnership. The firm was Hilliard & Spencer during the war and up to 1871, when Mr. Hilliard bought out Mr. Spencer and Elisha C. Hilliard, his son, was admitted to partnership. In 1893 the firm was incorporated under the name of The E. E. Hilliard company, with E. C. Hilliard as its head, and so it exists at the present time.

Before the silk industry had its inception in Manchester this was one of the most important manufactures in town. It not only operated the mill standing on the site of its present extensive plant, but also the mill now used by Cheney Brothers as a woodworking mill and a woollen mill on Charter Oak street.

Adjoining the mill is a pretty village owned by the company. The streets are shaded by fine old trees and the lawns and shrubbery are kept in good condition. A glimpse of the village printed on this page gives an idea of its beauty.

In 1901 the E. E. Hilliard company bought the mill plant and water privilege formerly owned by the Peter Adams company and located a mile above the Hilliard mill on the same stream. This had been for many years a large paper mill, but the mill was partly destroyed by fire and was not rebuilt. The Hilliard company established a power plant there for the transformation of water power into electricity. The electricity is conveyed by wires down the stream to the woollen mill and

now provides a greater part of the power for its operation. The maximum capacity of this power plant is 400 horse power. A glimpse of the reservoir above the power plant is shown on this page. It is one of the prettiest bodies of water in town. The view shown was taken from Hilliard street.

As an illustration of the growth of real estate value in Manchester, a tract of land consisting of 24 acres through which the South Manchester railroad now runs was bought by the late Elisha Hilliard for \$250. Mr. Hilliard donated four acres of this land to the South Manchester Railroad company when the railroad was built. Of the remaining 20 acres his son, E. C. Hilliard, has sold about one-half and realized therefrom \$24,000 and still has the other half in his possession. The firm does a prosperous business in the manufacture of wooleens for men's wear and gives steady employment to about

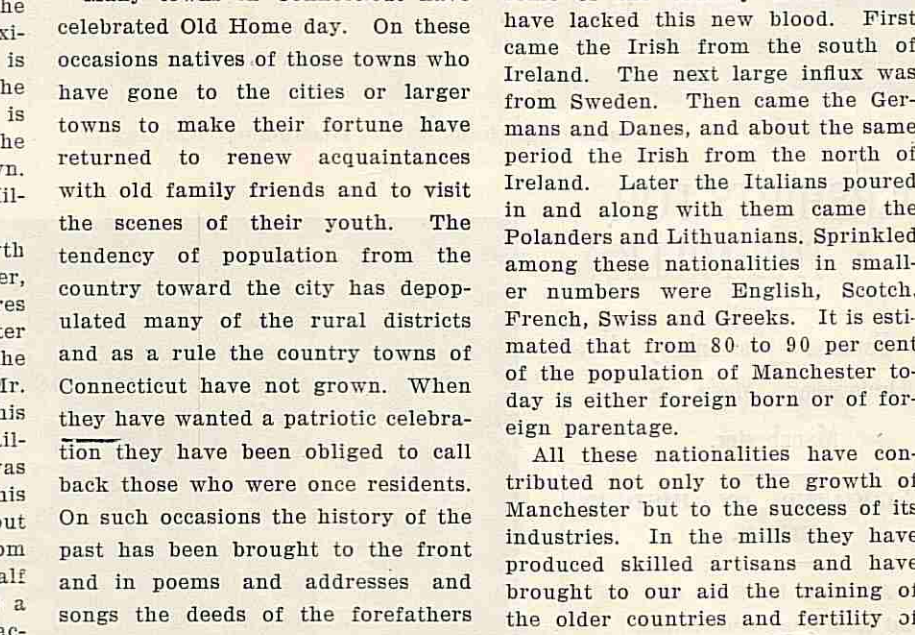
Many towns in Connecticut have celebrated Old Home day. On these occasions natives of those towns who have gone to the cities or larger towns to make their fortunes have returned to renew acquaintances with old family friends and to visit in and along with them came the Polesanders and Lithuanians. Sprinkled among these nationalities in smaller numbers were English, Scotch, French, Swiss and Greeks. It is estimated that from 80 to 90 per cent of the population of Manchester today is either foreign born or of foreign parentage.

All these nationalities have contributed not only to the growth of Manchester but to the success of its industries. In the mills they have produced skilled artisans and have brought to our aid the training of the older countries and fertility of ideas and inventions. In the trades they have produced some of our skilled journeymen. In mercantile

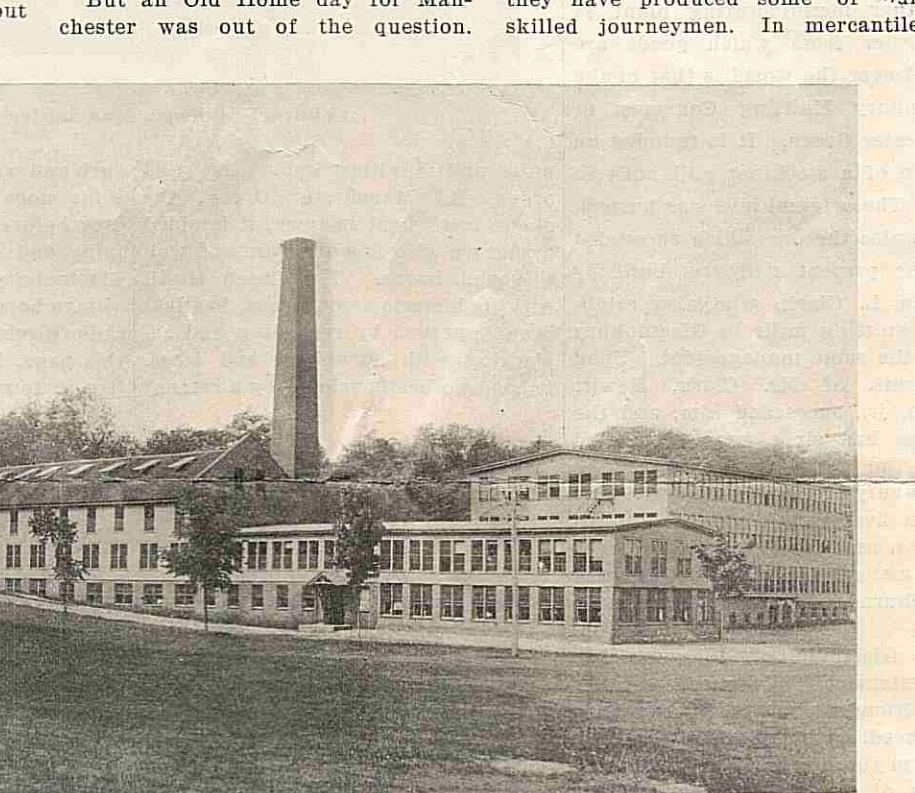
Some of the country towns which have lacked this new blood. First came the Irish from the south of Ireland. The next large influx was from Sweden. Then came the Germans and Danes, and about the same period the Irish from the north of Ireland. Later the Italians poured in and along with them came the Polesanders and Lithuanians. Sprinkled among these nationalities in smaller numbers were English, Scotch, French, Swiss and Greeks. It is estimated that from 80 to 90 per cent of the population of Manchester today is either foreign born or of foreign parentage.

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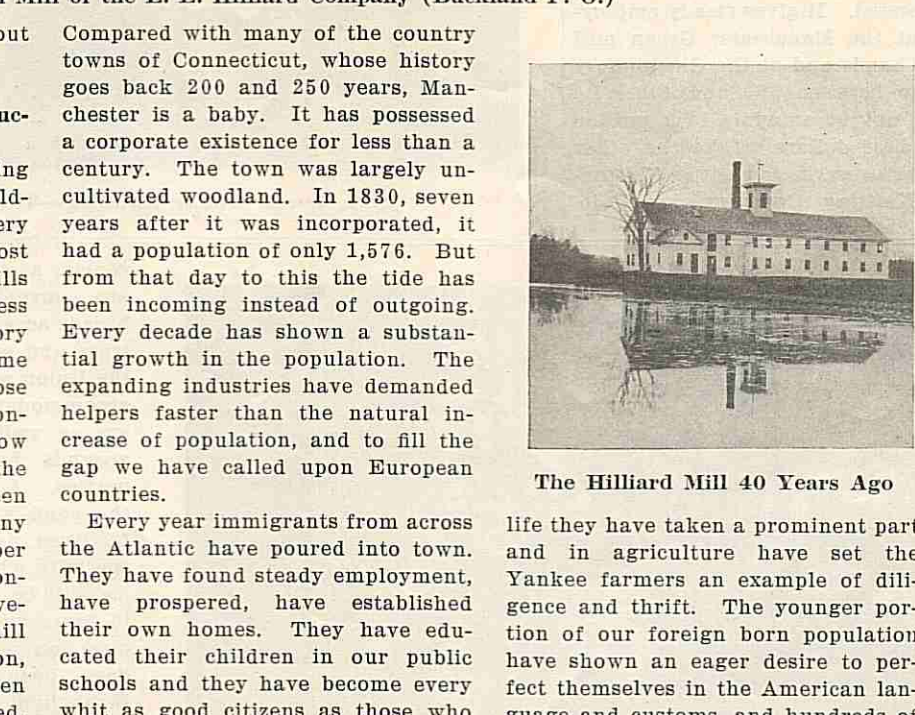
life they have taken a prominent part and in agriculture have set the Yankee farmers an example of diligence and thrift. The younger portion of our foreign born population have shown an eager desire to perfect themselves in the American language and customs, and hundreds of them have taken advantage of our night schools, after having completed a day's work at hand winning, for the purpose of hastening their acquisition of the United States language and customs.



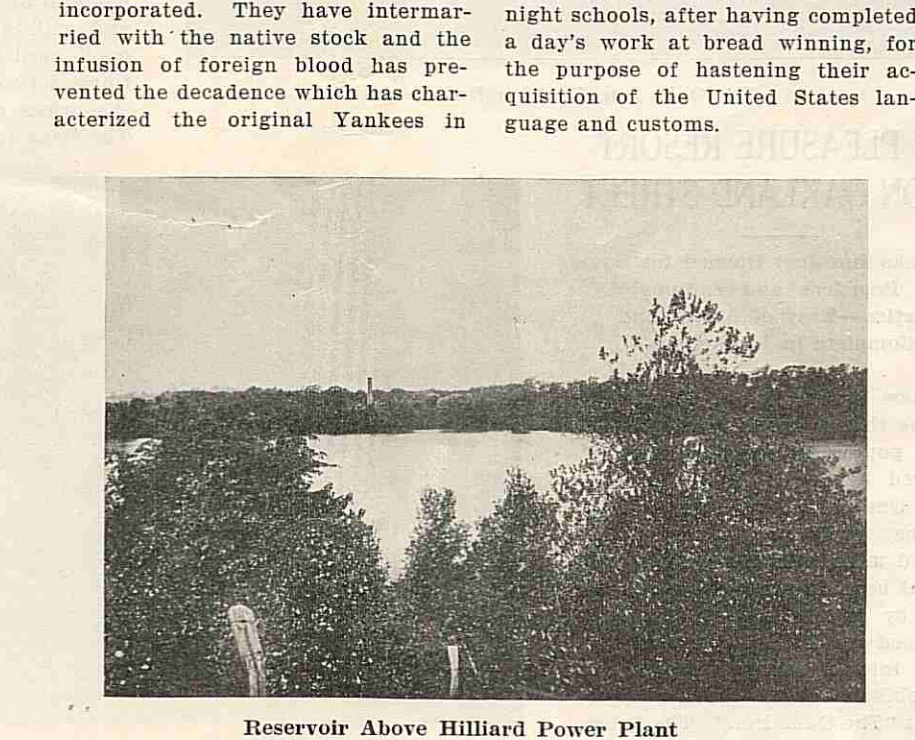
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