

1890

Lewiston and Auburn: Their Manufacturing Industries and Attractions.

G. W. Morris (Publisher)

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LEWISTON
& AUBURN.
AND

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LEWISTON AND AUBURN

*THEIR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES
AND ATTRACTIONS.*



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Lewiston, Maine.

LEWISTON, MAINE, is essentially a manufacturing city. The fact that the locality was ever settled was due to the natural facilities found here for manufacturing purposes. Of course, the earliest enterprises of this nature were on a small scale and of a crude style. Besides the water-power, the country abounded in good timber, and the average pioneer is prone to settle where he can get some manufactured lumber to work into his buildings, which in older days were built only with much labor even when located near saw-mills. Years ago the last traces of those old saw-mills disappeared, and only the older generation can point out the places on the smaller streams where dams were formerly located. Even the streams have dwindled down to meadow brooks and the manufacturing has become centered on the Androscoggin. But never in the history of the place, since the first old up-and-down saw was started, has manufacturing ceased to be the great and almost the sole source of wealth for the people of the community. The only unimproved water-power at present is at the outlet of No Name Pond, which is the only body of water lying wholly in Lewiston. The hills of the city are chiefly near the river, with the exception of Mount Thorne and David's Mountain. The latter is of mica schist formation. The summit and a right of way to the summit have been given to Bates College by the heirs of David Davis, who owned the mountain. On the land given to the college an observatory is to be erected. The summit commands a fine view of the surrounding country, the valley for miles being in sight on clear days. This makes the mountain a favorite place with pleasure seekers. To the east and south the mountain climbers see the agricultural part of the valley, dotted with well-kept farmhouses and productive fields. To the west, toward the river, the view is in direct contrast. The city, with its big mills, public buildings, churches and homes, makes up the view which greets the visitor when he turns his back on the rolling plains of the suburbs. The great river, with its windings and high banks, makes the hills on both sides look all the more majestic, and the rushing, roaring, turbulent falls cannot help being an inspiration, whether the observer be of an artistic and romantic or a commercial turn of mind. These falls constitute the beauty spot of Androscoggin County. They are likewise the great source of wealth to the people of the county. Lewiston's manufacturing enterprises owe their existence to the falls, and the city which they have created affords the market for the surrounding territory. The Androscoggin River is the outlet of the Rangeley Lakes, and both the river and lakes have many tributaries which also furnish power. The lakes have been dammed and are thereby made into big reservoirs for the storage of water which is used during the dry seasons.

Perhaps the early settlers did not foresee the possibilities in this line, but certainly they were two wise old pioneers, those two men who secured a large grant of land near the falls on the Lewiston side. This was known as the Pejepscot

grant and was made to Moses Little and Jonathan Bagley, in 1768, on condition that they would have fifty families living in as many houses on the land by 1774. They were not wholly successful and the grant was rescinded, but was confirmed in 1790, more families having come to the locality. The first settler was Paul Hildreth, of Dracut, Mass., who built a cabin in 1770, just below where the Continental Mills now stand. His wife was Miss Hannah Merrill, of Nottingham, N. H. The cabin was burned in the fall and the couple passed the winter in New Gloucester, returning to Lewiston in the spring. He continued to reside here until 1788, and had a never-ceasing struggle with wild animals, which destroyed his crops, killed his stock and endangered his own life. The Indians also caused Hildreth trouble, and it is said that Messrs. Little and Bagley, in order to encourage him, gave fifty acres of land to Mrs. Hildreth, who was the first woman to brave the dangers of the wilderness near the great falls. No document recording this transfer has ever been found. In 1770 David Pettengill and his wife, who was Mercy Lake, settled not far from Hildreth's farm. He went into the Revolutionary Army and never returned. His son, Benjamin, entered the army, but settled on the Auburn side on his return. Lawrence J. Hackett, of Dracut, Mass., secured land and settled in 1771 and built a saw-mill. He got no deed of the land and after his death, in 1774, the land was deeded to Abner Harris, Little and Bagley retaining the mill site and a right of way to Hildreth's farm. This Harris farm was sold to Dan and Lemuel Reed, in 1810, for \$3,500.00. But back in the earlier pioneer days more settlers came from Dracut, one party arriving in 1774. Following them came people from New Gloucester. The first store was opened by David Davis, who afterwards gave from his land the flat for the Sabattus burying-ground. Jacob Barker came in 1774 and James Garcelon in 1776. He was the great-grandfather of Dr. Alonzo Garcelon, an ex-governor of Maine and ex-mayor of Lewiston. Dan Reed, of Attleborough, Mass., settled here in 1788. He was afterwards selectman several years, town clerk, the first postmaster and representative in the state legislature. Ebenezer Ham settled in 1789. In 1790 there were 532 people in Lewiston. The place was incorporated February 18, 1795, the ninety-fifth town of the state. Lewiston is now the second city in size in the state.

The town sent two companies into the War of 1812, notwithstanding there were only 948 inhabitants in 1800. In 1840 the population numbered 1,810. Outside the little saw and grist-mills, the people had depended on farming up to this time, but from then on the growth was rapid on account of the development of the water-power. Lewiston became the terminal of the Androscoggin & Kennebec Railroad in 1849. The first cotton industry was conducted by Ephraim Wood, who made cotton warps and batting in a building owned by John A. Briggs. There were other small industries in the same building. Mr. Wood was succeeded by Joseph B. Harding.

The water-power company meanwhile was developing the power and building up mills under the management of various corporations. These companies felt hampered by the freight rates demanded by the Maine Central Railroad (Androscoggin & Kennebec). The manufacturers therefore conceived the idea of building a short line to connect Lewiston and Auburn with the main line of the Grand Trunk. Permission was secured from the legislature, but as the Maine Central

thereupon gave lower rates to the corporations they withdrew from the movement for railroad competition and in fact opposed it. This left the people still a victim of high rates, and they rose in their might and built the Lewiston and Auburn branch of the Grand Trunk. This vigorous public spirit has since been one of the characteristics of the Lewiston people, and they do not stand any injustice for any length of time.

Lewiston has, since 1860, increased in population faster than any other city in Maine. The cause of this wonderful growth is due to the increased number of people given employment from year to year since the water-power has been put in shape for complete development. Lewiston is the center of the most populous section of the state. But in turn the section was made populous because Lewiston progressed and furnished a market, thus giving employment to many people. The whole era of progress has therefore rested on the water-power. The power is one of the best in New England, there being 10,660 horse-power within the limits of the city, or about one-third of the entire power of the Androscoggin. Of this natural force, 6,192 horse-power is in use, leaving over 4,000 horse-power for new industries. The power is controlled by the Union Water Power Company. The natural fall at Lewiston is 38 feet in 600 horizontal feet, and by dams the fall within that distance is increased to 50 feet. The water is turned into a canal, which is three-fourths of a mile long, 62 feet wide and 14 feet deep. Cross canals take the water to falling points over the mill wheels. One-fifth of the population of Maine is within an easy half-day's journey of this great power. Two distinct lines of the Maine Central Railroad, the Grand Trunk and the Portland & Rumford Falls Road do the carrying business to and from the city. The Grand Trunk gives a trunk line to the West, and the Maine Central to Eastern Maine and the provinces one way, and Portland, Boston and the West the other. The Portland & Rumford Falls Road, which has terminal rights on the Maine Central from its own terminal in Auburn, handles the traffic from Rumford Falls and the lower Rangeley Lake region. Lewiston is a market-place and shopping and buying headquarters for Franklin County, a part of Kennebec, Oxford, and a part of Sagadahoc.

The electric road, the second largest electric system in the United States, has within the past few years been the means of increasing the commercial prosperity of Lewiston. The road runs down river to Lisbon, Lisbon Falls, Brunswick and Bath, also in another direction to Sabattus.

The Maine State Agricultural Society holds its annual fair at its big grounds and race-course in Lewiston. Other cities were tried, but when in Lewiston the fair got the largest attendance, so the society bought the grounds here and located permanently. Each year the people come in crowds from all parts of Maine and from other states as well.

The Lewiston Bleachery and Dye Works are the second biggest of the kind in the United States, and the biggest department store in Maine, and in New England outside of Boston, is in Lewiston. The population of the city is 25,000. The death rate, according to the last report, is only 22.16 per thousand. There is a good sewer system and a supply of pure water is obtained from Lake Auburn and pumped to all parts of the city. The pipe across the river is cemented into a trench blasted out of the big ledges of the falls. In fact, the pipe may be said to be a cement structure with an iron lining. Lewiston and Auburn are connected by two iron passenger bridges, besides the Maine Central and Grand Trunk bridges.

The churches of Lewiston are the Advent, Bates Street Baptist, Main Street Free Baptist, Pine Street Free Baptist, St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's, St. Peter's, Pine Street Congregational, Park Street Methodist, Hammond Street Methodist, Trinity Episcopal, Bates Street Universalist, South Lewiston Free Baptist and Hebrew.

The educational system of Lewiston is well up with the times. A new building for the high school is soon to be built and a lot has been purchased. Lewiston is the home of Bates College, an institution which is educating young men and women from all parts of New England. The college has dormitories, a gymnasium, a laboratory and a divinity department. The college is a Free Baptist institution. There is in the City Building a public library of 11,000 volumes and new ones are being added every season. There are two business colleges, the Lewiston, recently consolidated with Gray's, and the Bliss, both successful institutions.

The Lewiston Young Men's Christian Association is a flourishing organization and is well supported by the churches and people generally. Its quarters are in Kora Temple Block, a fine structure partly occupied by that Masonic order. Near Lewiston's large, tree-shaded park there is a Young Women's Home, maintained by the Women's Christian Association. A library is open there for the young working women, who also enjoy other advantages and good influences.

Lewiston has a fine theater, called Music Hall. It is in Frye Block, an imposing structure named after United States Senator, William P. Frye.

There are two excellent hospitals in Lewiston, the Central Maine General Hospital, on Main Street, and the Hospital of the Sisters of Charity, near the head of Pine Street. The Catholics maintain many schools and the Healy Orphan Asylum, the latter being on Ash Street.

Lewiston owns the water works and electric lighting plant, the dynamos for the latter being located at the pumping station. Private lighting is done by the Lewiston and Auburn Electric Light Company, the American Electric Light Company and the Lewiston Gas Light Company, all three giving a service for Auburn as well as Lewiston.

Lewiston has thirty miles of streets and eighty miles of suburban roads. The city park is ten and one-half acres in extent and it is the gathering place for people on summer evenings, when band music is provided at the expense of the city. On the park is a soldiers' monument. It is surmounted by the figure of a private of the Union Army, and is the first soldiers' monument erected in the United States after the Civil War.

Lewiston has only one idle textile plant. It is the Lewiston Mill, once generally called the bag mill, on account of its great production of bags. The mill has also produced finer materials, but very little of its machinery is of the kind used for the more costly fabrics, such as the other mills make. The mill passed from the company into the hands of the bondholders and there has since been a strong desire among Lewiston people that its machinery would in the near future be started. Every precaution to protect the plant is being taken and the water-power leased by the company is available whenever it may be possible to resume operations. Lewiston people are not only confident that the whole water-power will be

in use before many years, but that manufacturing in the city will sometime be more than double by bringing down by electricity power from the dams up river. These structures are new and are admirable products of engineering skill. They give power which, when used, will furnish employment to enough people to make Lewiston a city of 50,000. Many of the shrewdest investors in the two cities have acquired real estate here with full confidence that every horse-power on the river will eventually be used, and that in consequence of this values will be increased two or three hundred per cent. It is not to be understood that there are no doubters, for they are to be found in Lewiston just as they are elsewhere. But with a good number of the people who have cast their lots in Lewiston there is an abiding confidence in the future of the city. This spirit extends to the people who have simply the means necessary to provide themselves with homes. That such is the case is showed by the results of the great home-building period through which the city has just passed. While the prices of materials were low, hundreds of citizens erected cottages and costly residences. Streets which were on paper only are now attractive thoroughfares, and modern dwellings adorn neighborhoods which were only a short time ago unused tracts of land, that did not under former conditions add to the wealth of the people, even to the extent of a few bushels of potatoes. There is nothing to indicate that this growth has ceased or ever will cease. While these lines are being written, architects are making plans for more buildings and thrifty people are preparing to own their homes as well as houses for newcomers who seek and generally find employment here.

Lewiston does not herald itself as a wholesale center, but as one prosperous season succeeds another, jobbing and wholesale establishments come into existence and most of them are successful. The wholesale grocery business, the paper business, cigar, confectionery and fruit jobbing, men's furnishing goods, clothing and other goods at wholesale figure in Lewiston's commercial affairs. The shipping facilities have been improved from year to year and the Lewiston Board of Trade has, at various times, secured from the railroad companies privileges and rates. There is competition in the express business between Lewiston and Boston, also in freights, as one line goes through and the other connects with the Boston boat line at Portland. Merchants east of Lewiston are glad to send their orders to this city instead of paying freight to have the merchandise from more distant points.

The textile industry is the principal one in Lewiston. The Androscoggin Mills, owned by a corporation capitalized at \$1,000,000, make sheetings, shirtings, jeans, seersuckers and grain bags. It has 68,000 spindles, 1,953 looms, dye works and both water and steam-power. Charles H. Fisk is president of the company, George F. Fabyan, treasurer, and George W. Bean, agent. Bliss, Fabyan & Co. are selling agents and George F. Fabyan, buyer.

The Avon Manufacturing Company is capitalized at \$100,000 and produces quilts, towelings, bed spreads, scarfs, table covers. The plant has 59 looms, a bleaching department and water-power. C. I. Barker is president, F. H. Packard, treasurer, and A. D. Barker, agent. A. D. Smith, of New York, is selling agent.

The Bates Manufacturing Company is capitalized at \$1,200,000 and manufactures bed spreads, table cloths, gingham, fine dress goods, seersuckers, fancy shirtings and colored cottons. There are in the works 55,848 spindles and 1,794 looms. The company uses water-power and has dye works. James B. Case is president, Robert J. Edwards, treasurer, H. L. Pratt, agent and buyer, J. G. Kelley, superintendent, and Bliss, Fabyan & Co., selling agents.

The Columbia Mills, Thomas Kelley & Co., of Boston, proprietors, make blankets and wrappers. The company has 40 looms and a dye department. Water-power is used. W. H. Bowers is agent and superintendent, and Thomas Kelley & Co., selling agents.

The Continental Mills have a capitalization of \$1,500,000 and produce sheetings, shirtings, drills, momie cloth and coarse yarns. The mills operate 93,421 spindles, 2,000 looms and have water and steam-power. Lyman Nichols is president, C. H. Wood, of Boston, treasurer, H. B. Estes, agent, and C. H. Wood, selling agent.

The Cowan Woolen Company is capitalized at \$75,000 and manufactures cheviots and cassimeres. The company has 42 looms and uses water-power. It has a dye department. Seth Milliken is president, H. M. Dingley, treasurer, and M. P. Hanley, superintendent. Deering, Milliken & Co. are selling agents.

The Cumberland Mill, Libbey & Dingley, proprietors, makes repellants, meltoretts and cheviots. It has 40 looms, steam and water-power and dye department. W. S. Libbey is buyer and Deering, Milliken & Co., selling agents.

The Hill Manufacturing Company is capitalized at \$1,000,000 and the products are sheetings, shirtings and twills. In the mills are 54,208 spindles and 1,318 looms, driven by water-power. George F. Putnam is president, William D. Pennell, agent, and Amory, Brown & Co., selling agents.

The Lincoln Mills, Libbey & Dingley, proprietors, make carriage cloth. Water-power is used. Much new machinery has recently been added. As the mills were idle for some time this is in a sense a new industry. W. S. Libbey is buyer.

The Lewiston Bleachery and Dye Works have a capitalization of \$300,000. The business is the bleaching and dyeing of cotton goods and the capacity is 210 tons per week. The plant has both steam and water-power. George Dexter, of Boston, is president, John W. Danielson, Providence, R. I., treasurer, James A. Walsh, agent, and John Winn, superintendent.

Lewiston is rapidly becoming to the young people of the smaller places what Massachusetts alone could furnish them a decade ago. Its importance as a mecca for ambitious youth is increasing, and those who would likely have gone to the manufacturing towns a few years ago now look to Lewiston as a place in which they can rise and become prosperous. In spite of a mighty invasion from Canada, Lewiston, like other Maine places, retains many of the characteristics of the mother state. In the past there has been complaint that the commercial vitality of Maine was being sapped by the propensity of the young men to gravitate toward the old commonwealth, but still the people who have contributed to the building up of this great industrial center, with its numerous promises of reward to all who will strive, have never forgotten that every highly-prized institution, the church, the school, social life, as well as the courage, faith, honor and patriotism of the community,

were given Lewiston by the mother state. It was her wisdom, some call it selfishness, which for one hundred years nursed and protected the infant settlements and prevented the civilization of Lower Canada from fastening itself on parts of Maine.

Now, as a grand result, the ability of Maine to maintain its integrity as a model member of the Union is fully demonstrated and Lewiston stands pre-eminently an example of what a city may be, although it welcomes within its borders thousands of people from land across the northern border. Lewiston's success and fame, acquired under the existing circumstances, have served to quell the fears of other cities and towns. Another change has come about, a change already mentioned in this article. Lewiston has become the objective point for hundreds of young men who seek to establish themselves in life. The city rivals even Boston in this respect, and there is hardly a town in Maine not represented in Lewiston's population. And by Lewiston people it is not considered detrimental that many foreign countries have contributed to the growth of the city, for they have also, without doubt, added largely to its commercial activity and prosperity. Scotland, Ireland, England, Germany, Poland, Canada and the Maritime Provinces are in evidence in the population of Lewiston, and the people from each foreign land have their organizations which join in all of the anniversary days and commercial festivals which are frequently held to celebrate Lewiston's march of progress.

Lewiston has long since passed the days of garden plots, but has yet to experience the general acceptance of modern flats as places of abode. Of course tenements and mansions have come, but the prevailing style of dwelling is the detached house for one or two families. Granite paving is the style of street building used in extending the system of permanent thoroughfares, but crushed stone pressed into shape by a steam-roller has been brought into use on residential streets. This crushed-stone surface is laid on a foundation of cobble-stones and large flakes of coarse granite.

Everything considered, Lewiston is confident of its future. Improvements of a permanent nature are constantly being made and the thoughts of the people are ever directed to increasing the volume of manufacturing done in the city.



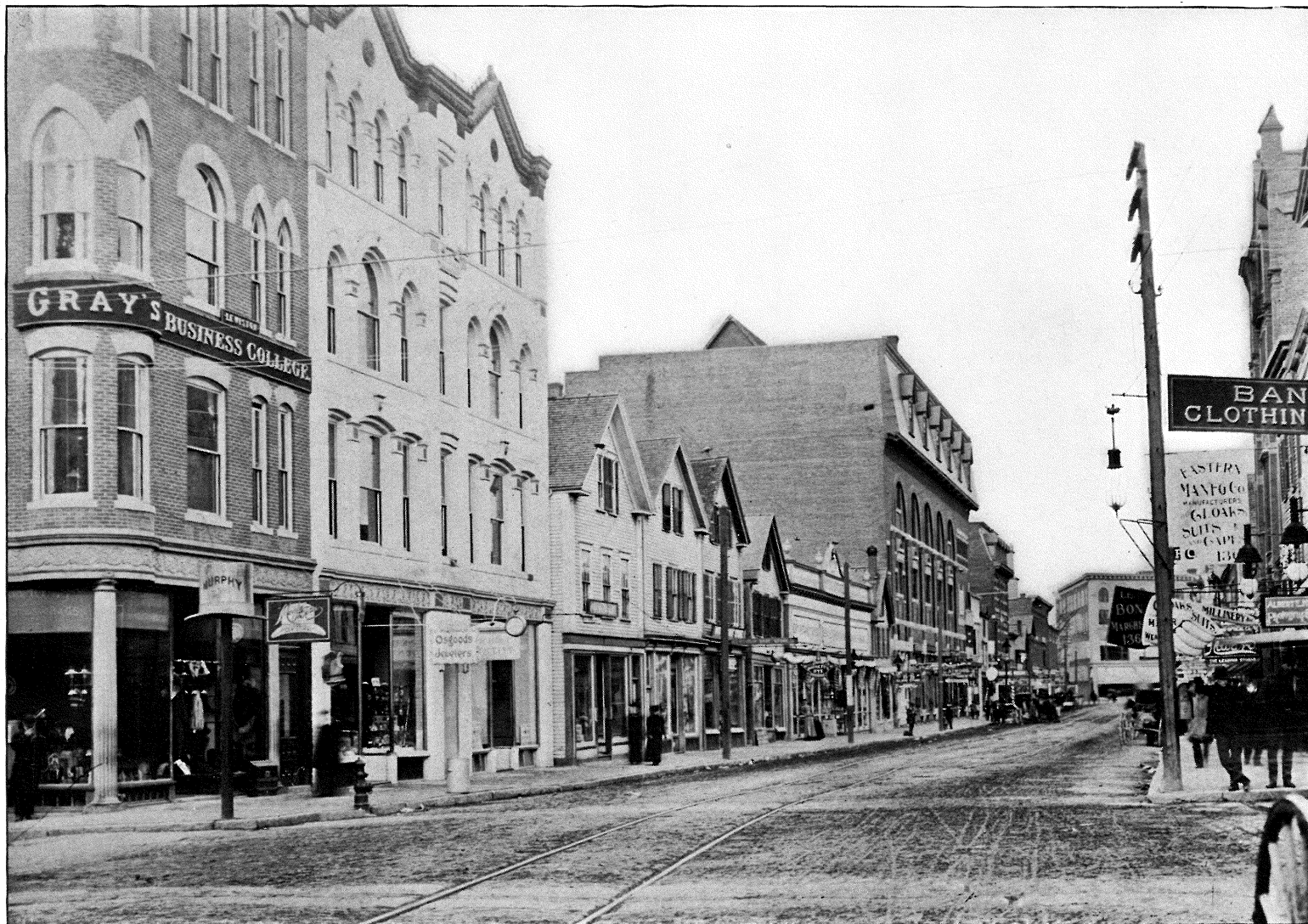
AT THE HEAD OF LISBON STREET, LEWISTON.



LISBON STREET FROM ASH STREET, LOOKING NORTH, LEWISTON.



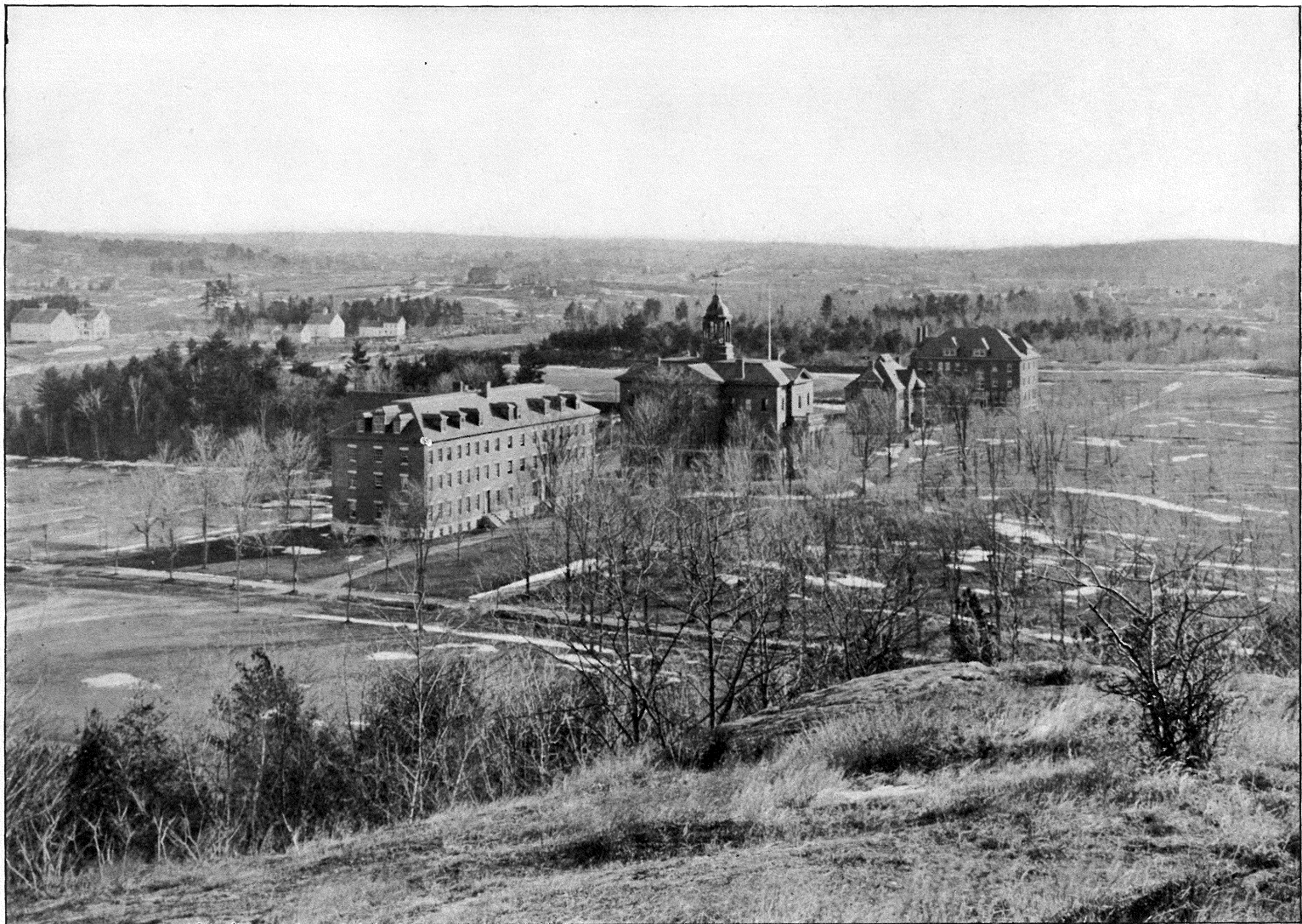
FROM LOWER LISBON STREET, LOOKING NORTH, LEWISTON.



LISBON STREET FROM ASH STREET, LOOKING NORTH, LEWISTON.



VIEW FROM HOSPITAL SQUARE, LOOKING WEST, LEWISTON.



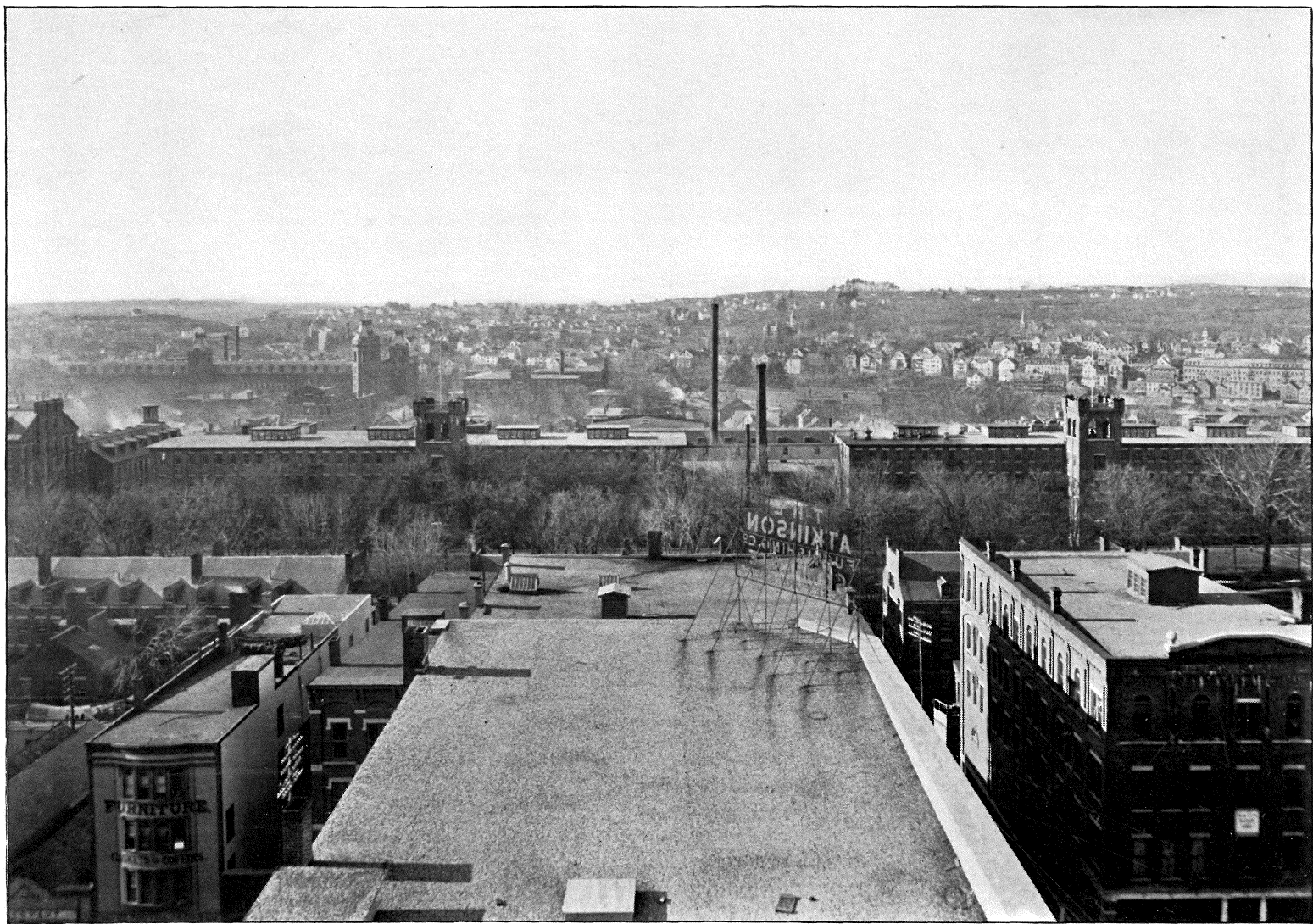
VIEW FROM DAVID'S MOUNTAIN, SHOWING BATES COLLEGE BUILDINGS, LEWISTON.



VIEW FROM LEWISTON CITY BUILDING TOWER, LOOKING NORTH.



VIEW FROM LEWISTON CITY BUILDING TOWER, LOOKING SOUTHEAST. ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH ON LEFT.



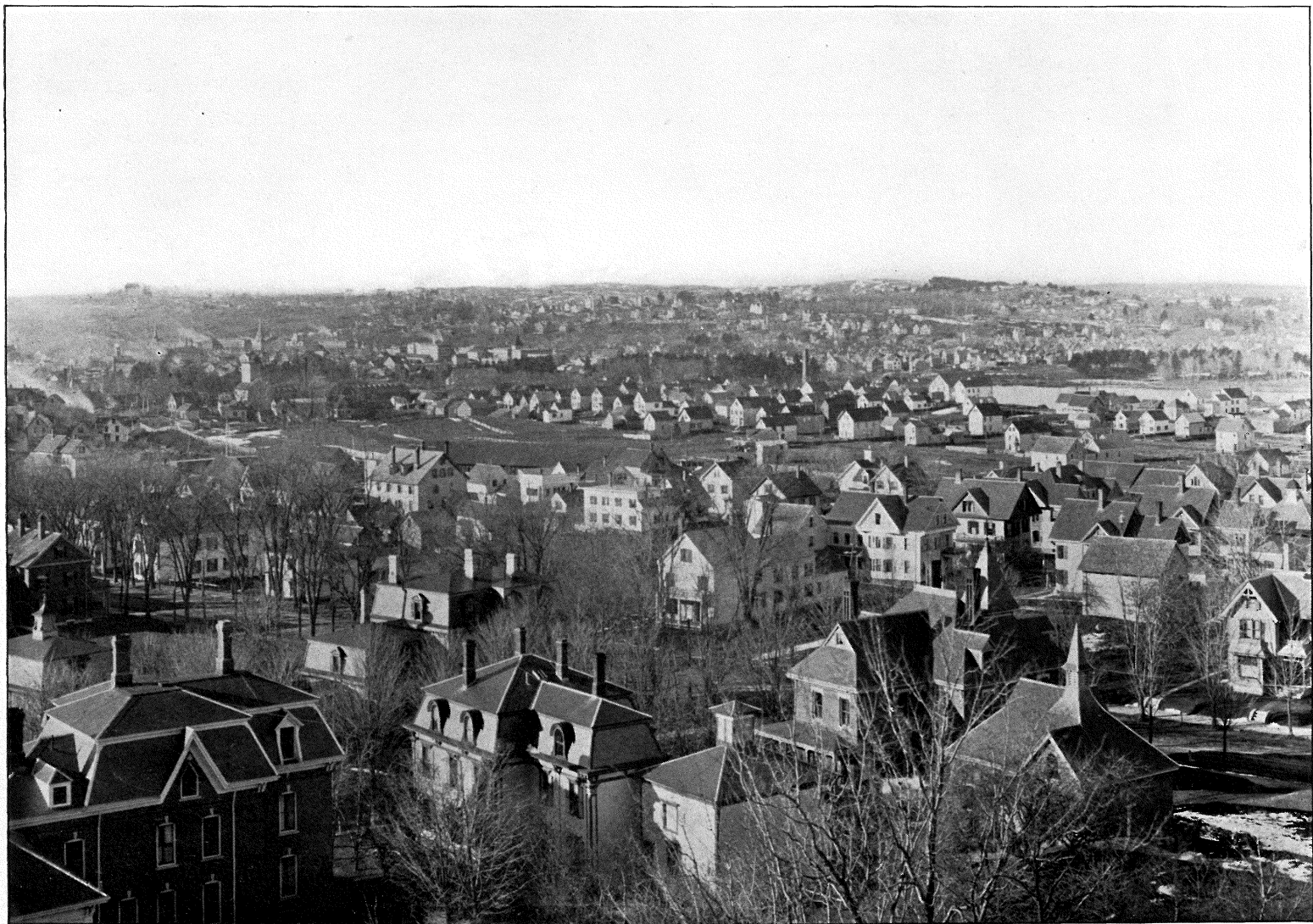
FROM LEWISTON CITY BUILDING TOWER, LOOKING WEST.



VIEW FROM DAVID'S MOUNTAIN, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.



VIEW FROM LEWISTON CITY BUILDING TOWER, LOOKING NORTHEAST.



VIEW FROM DAVID'S MOUNTAIN, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.



DE WITT HOUSE, LEWISTON.



LEWISTON PARK.



LEWISTON CITY BUILDING.



RESULTS OF ENFORCEMENT OF THE MAINE LAW.



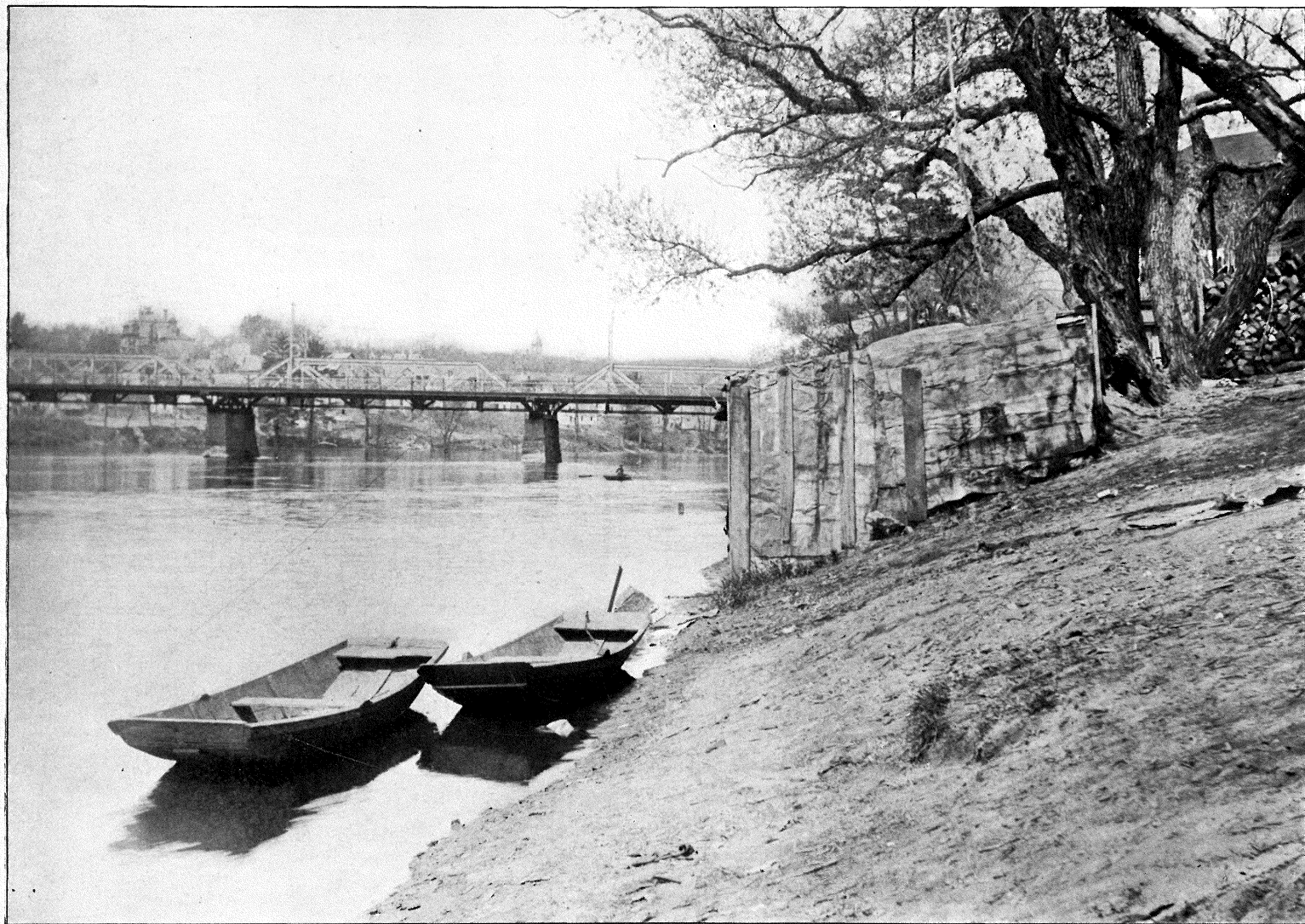
CANAL AND BATES MILLS, LOOKING SOUTH.



ANDROSCOGGIN MILL, LEWISTON.



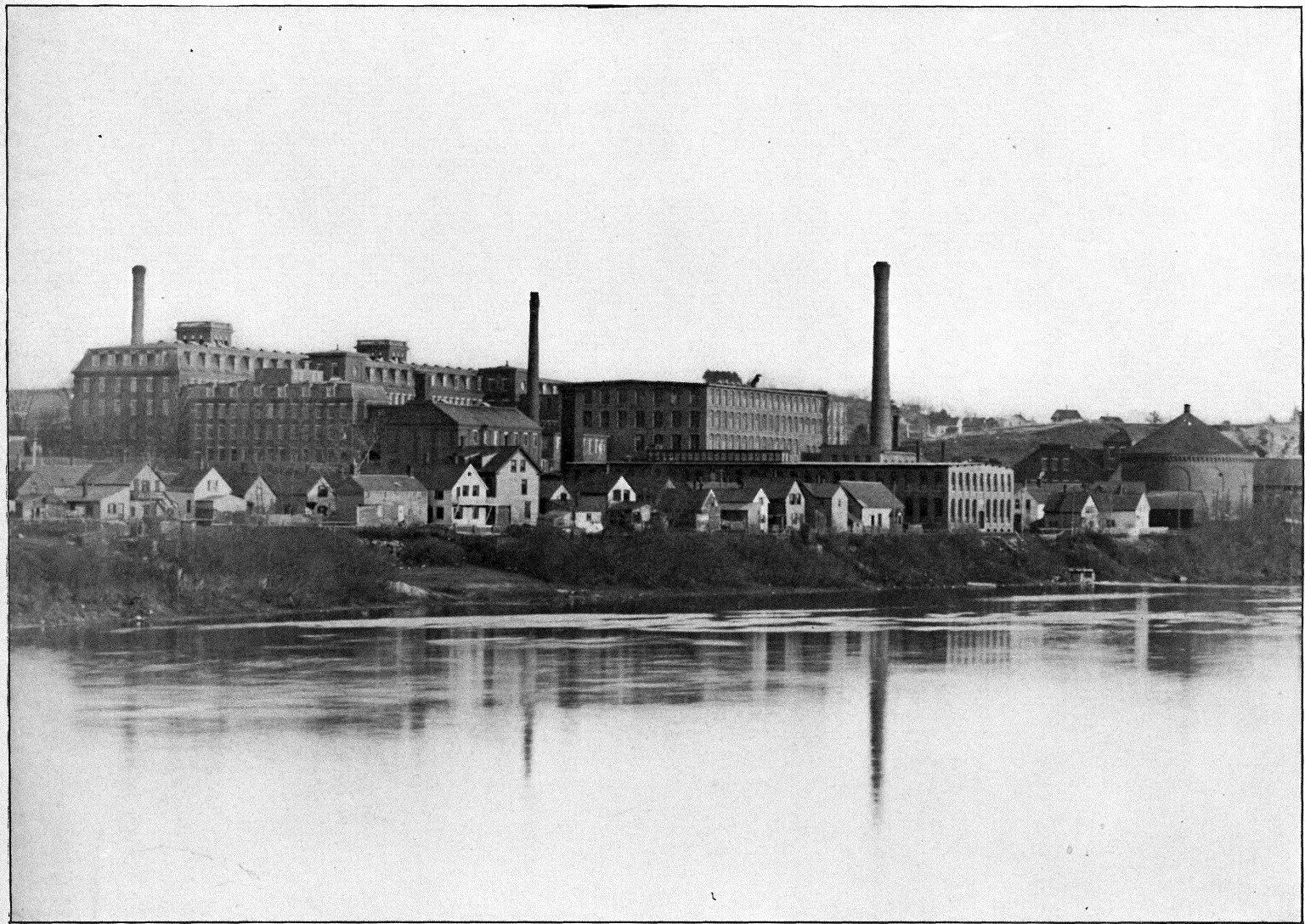
CANAL, LOOKING NORTH FROM CEDAR STREET. HILL MILLS AND BATES MILLS IN DISTANCE.



SOUTH BRIDGE, FROM LEWISTON SIDE, LOOKING NORTH.



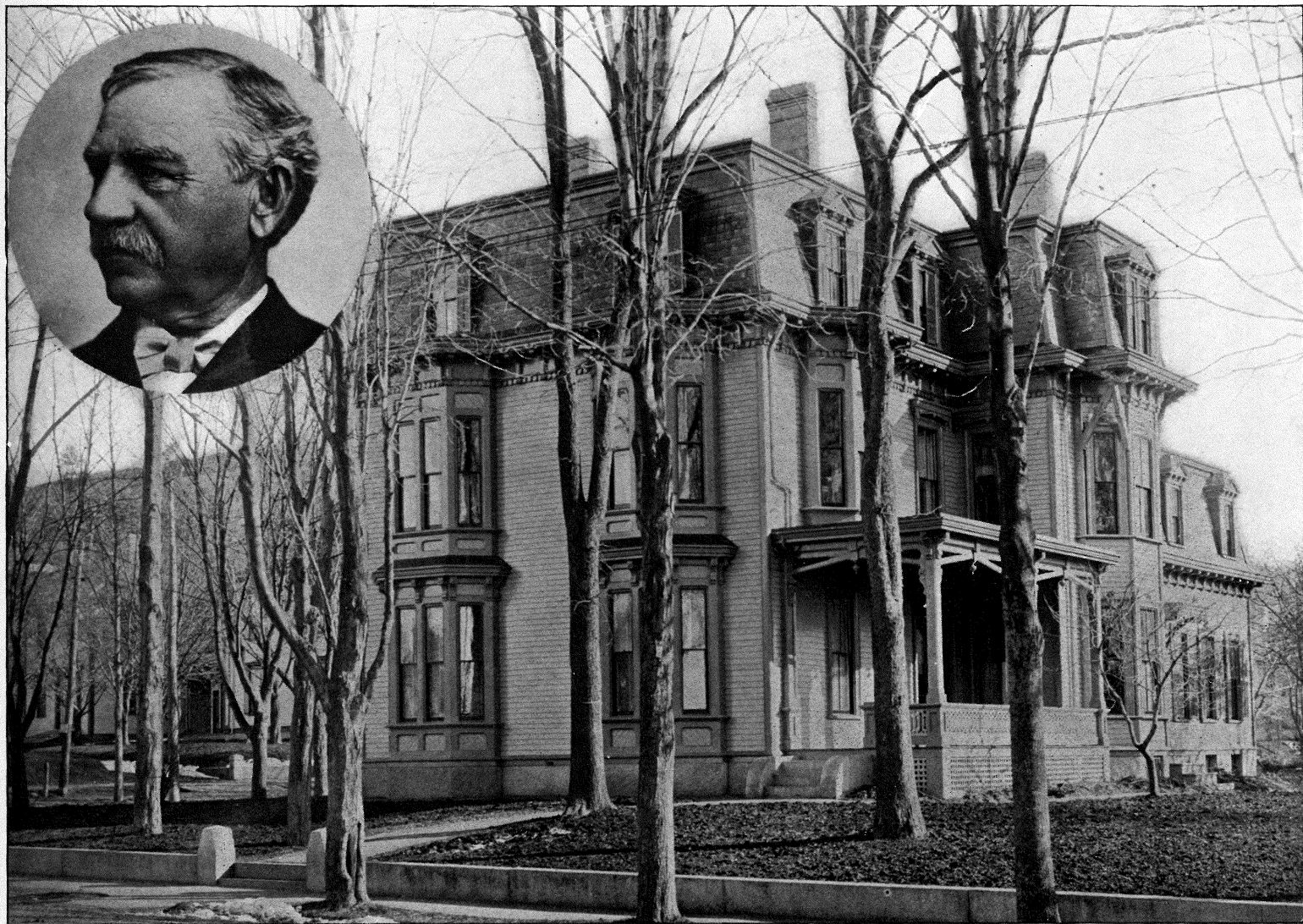
A GLANCE ACROSS THE FALLS, FROM LEWISTON PUMPING STATION.



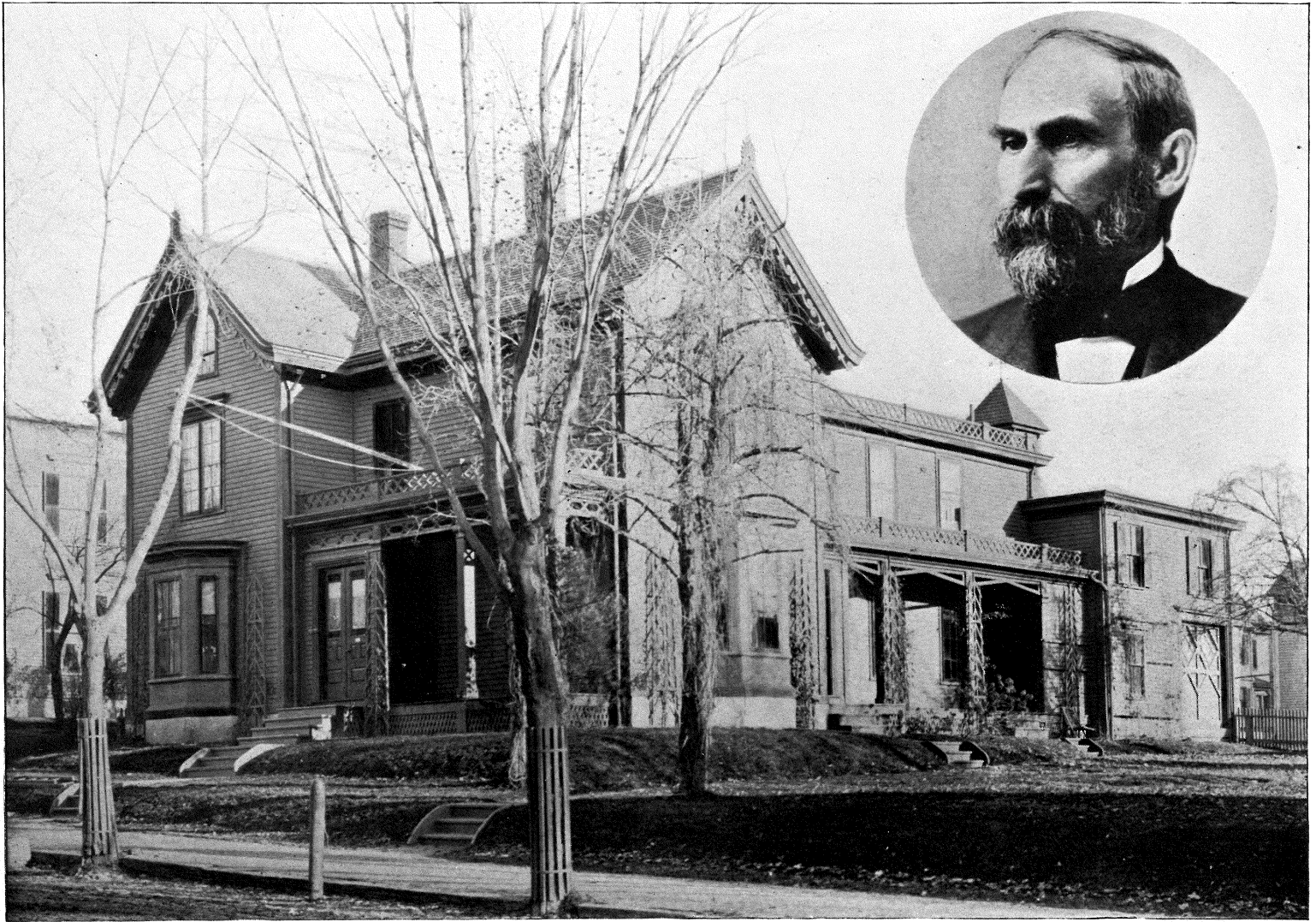
VIEW FROM SOUTH BRIDGE, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.



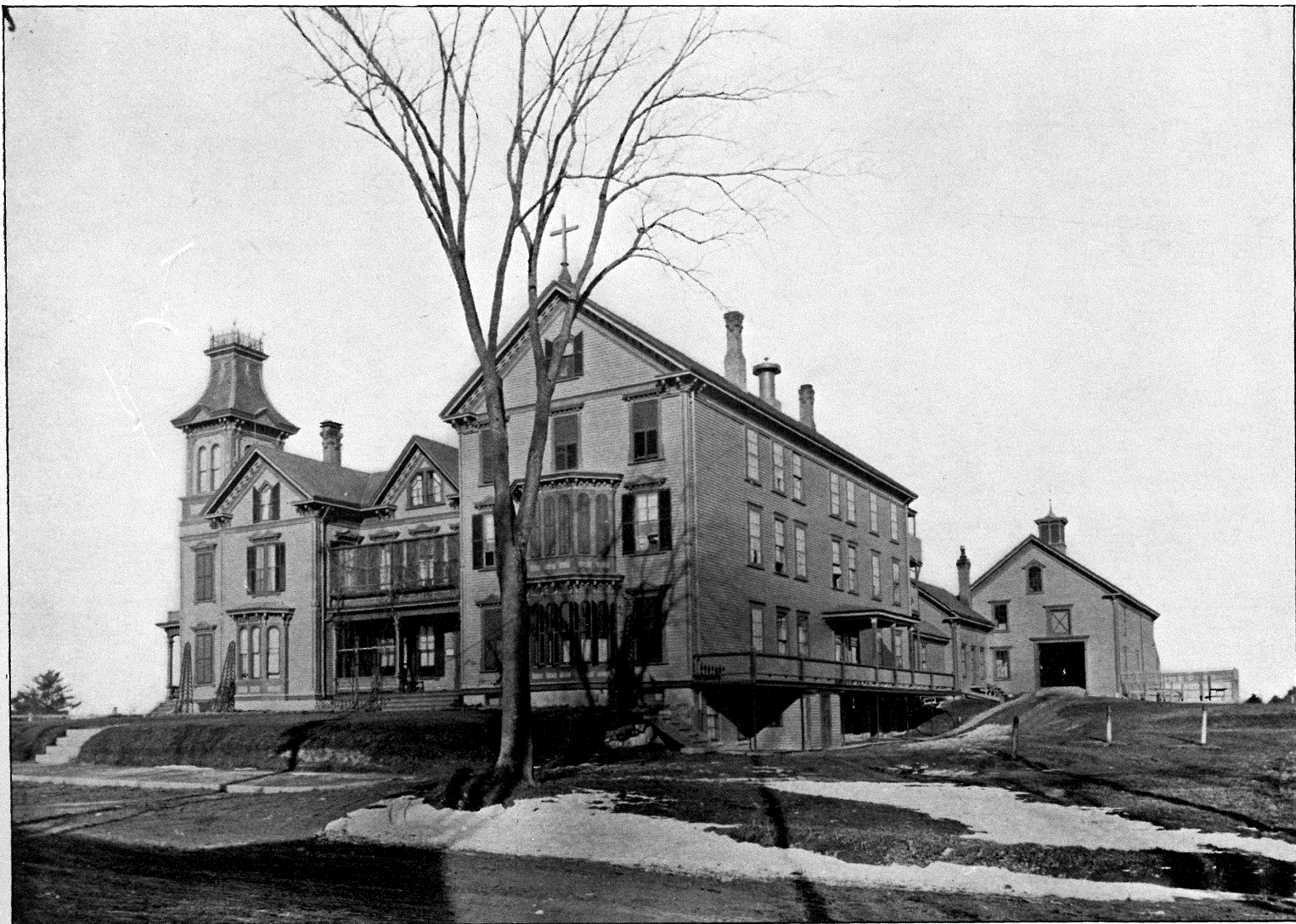
LEWISTON FALLS, FROM BRIDGE.



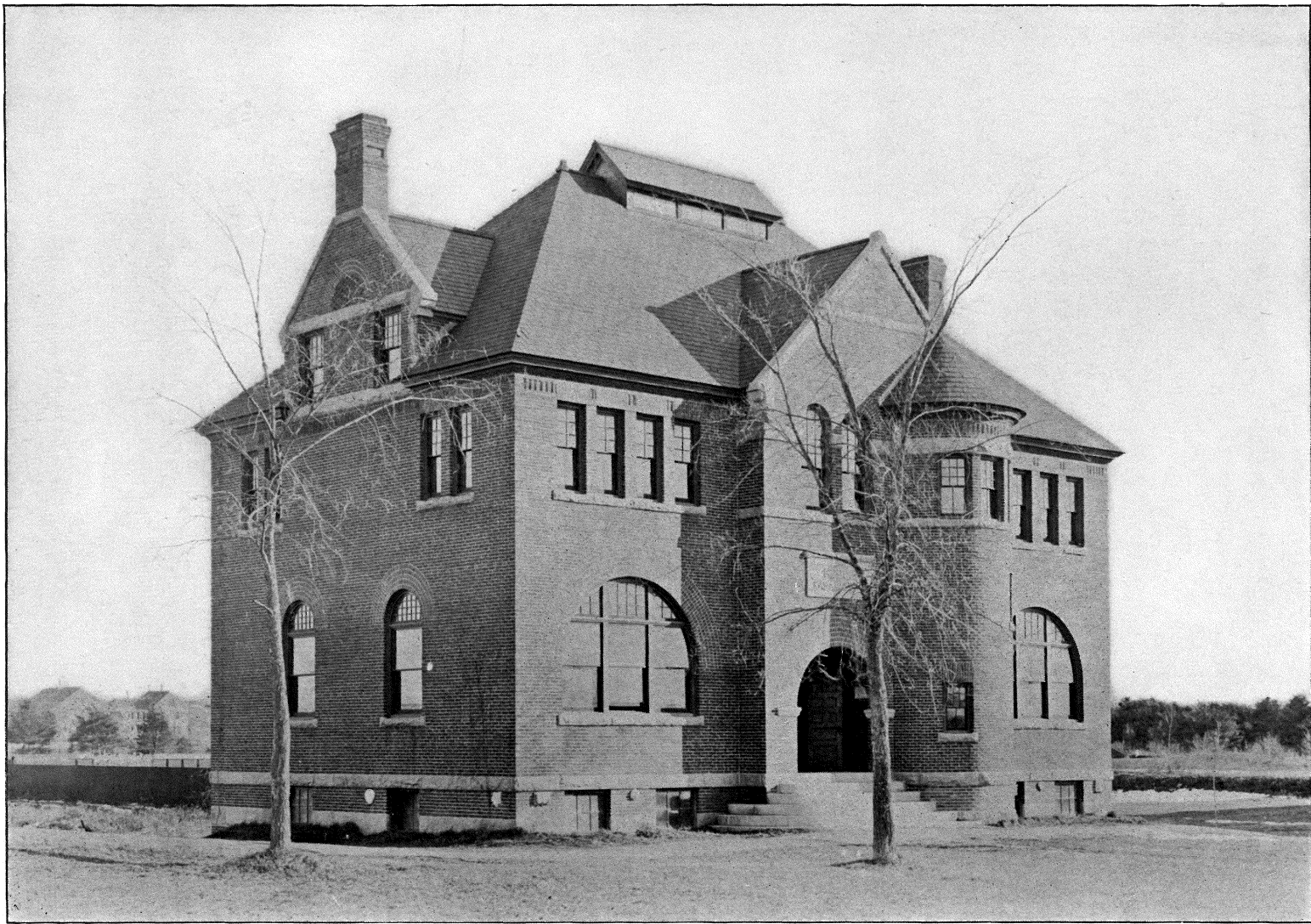
WM. P. FRYE'S RESIDENCE, MAIN STREET, LEWISTON.



THE LATE NELSON DINGLEY'S RESIDENCE, CORNER PINE AND HORTON STREETS, LEWISTON.



FRENCH HOSPITAL, OUR LADY OF LOURDES, LEWISTON.



HEDGE LABORATORY, BATES COLLEGE, LEWISTON.



CENTRAL MAINE HOSPITAL, LEWISTON.



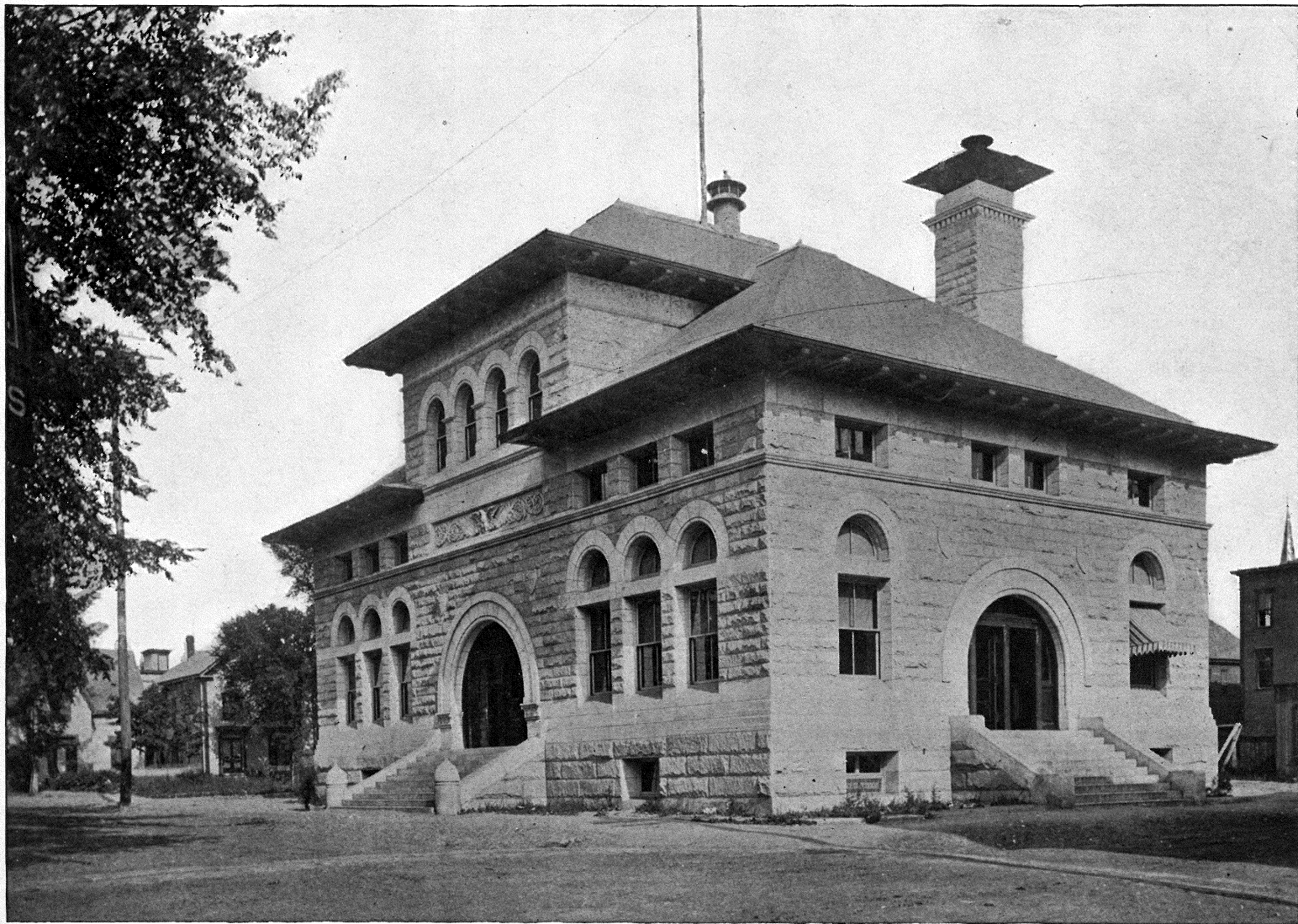
WALSH RESIDENCE, PINE STREET, LEWISTON.



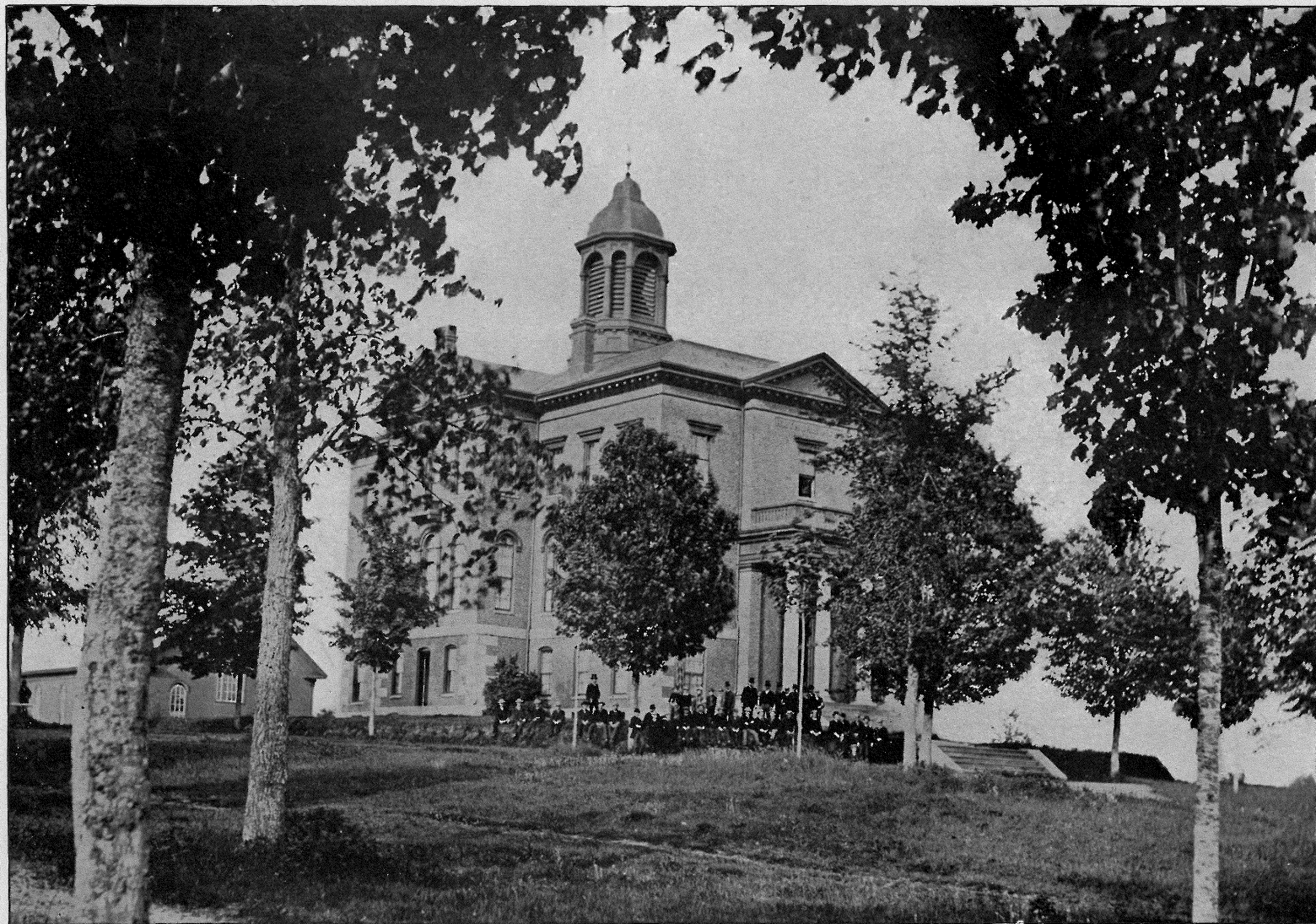
HEALY ASYLUM, CATHOLIC ORPHANAGE, LEWISTON.



OAK STREET SCHOOLHOUSE, LEWISTON.



POST OFFICE, LEWISTON.



BATES COLLEGE, LEWISTON.



LEWISTON FALLS, 1899.



LEWISTON, 1820.

Auburn, Maine.

THE site of the city of Auburn, the county-seat of Androscoggin County, was once the home of a large number of Anasagunticooks, a warlike tribe of Indians, who had a village where the business portion of the city is now located. Main Street of the present runs parallel with the river, and at the rear of the houses in the gardens along the river bank Indian relics have been found. In fact, hardly a year passes that fragments of pottery and implements are not found. At another location, near by, a dozen skeletons, together with wampum and weapons, were unearthed. Men now living have heard from their grandfathers stories about these Indians with whom the older generation came into personal contact. So while this brief article on Auburn will deal largely with the present, the writer mentions these things of historical nature that the visitor who becomes interested in the city may know that the story of its early days is not a legend of days when facts were easily lost. This mention of historical matters also makes it timely to the fact that persons interested in Auburn's bygone days may get a big fund of information at the Auburn Public Library, a well-conducted institution, having as a distinct department a large and constantly growing list of reference books. The Indians and their successors, the early settlers, will prove interesting subjects to any one who chooses to read the accurate records which have been made by capable historians. Although generally accepted as truthful, this historical literature of Auburn abounds with romantic anecdotes, which are all the more fascinating to the reader because the very scenery of the valley is suggestive of the stirring events with which the historian has to deal.

The territory of the city lies along the river for twelve miles and has an average width of four and a half miles. Its area is fifty square miles, of which one-sixth is water. This includes the eastern half of the original town of Minot and the old town of Danville, formerly Pejepscot. The Minot section was acquired from Massachusetts. The first settlement in Auburn was back among the hills, some distance from the river, and for several years after it was established the site of the present business center was a wilderness. The first clearing in the now thickly populated district was made in 1797, at the present junction of Main and Court streets, and there a log-cabin, the first permanent building, was erected by Joseph Welch. One of the Dillingham family soon after erected the first frame house, near the falls, in the vicinity of Foundry Brook. Solomon Wood came next and erected a house near where the Edward Little High School building now stands. Thus the scene of to-day's commercial and industrial activity began to assume the appearance of an old-time farming community. The growth of the community for the next twenty years was slow. In 1822 Jacob Reed helped things along by moving a building across the river on the ice. He placed it where Goff Block is now located. He opened the first store and public house. James Goff became his partner and bought out Mr. Reed's interest in 1822. A ferry was used in crossing

the river from 1812 to 1823, when a toll-bridge was erected. The village became known as Pekin. The toll-keeper was James O. Emery, and the toll-house was on the land now occupied by R. S. Bradbury's livery stable. The village had become a promising one in 1826. Stephen Lowell opened a small store where the Robinson drug store is now located. Edward Little, Esq., established a law office and Barker Brooks set up as a blacksmith. James Goff, who figured so prominently in the development of the town, had a house on the present site of Auburn Hall, and the village became a rival to that section of the plantation now known as North Auburn, which became a settlement of some importance earlier in the century. Land was held at small figures. The lot now occupied by the Y. M. C. A., for which the Association paid forty-five hundred dollars, changed hands in those days for fifty dollars. The land between Elm, High and Court streets was offered for fifteen hundred dollars as late as 1851, and in 1891 was valued at five hundred thousand dollars.

Auburn was incorporated as a town February 24, 1842. The first railroad came in 1848. The town was made the county-seat in 1854. A large portion of the business section of the village was burned in 1855, but was soon rebuilt. The Auburn village charter was granted March 14, 1856.

By this time the village had begun to outstrip West Auburn. West Auburn had been a busy place previous to 1826, and particularly during the War of 1812, when James Perkins had there a shop in which gun barrels, knives, razors and pipes for the soldiers were made. North Auburn, located north of Wilson Pond (Lake Auburn), came to the front in 1859, when H. M. Bearce & Co. manufactured monthly 25,920 pairs of copper-toed shoes and 200,000 metallic tips which were shipped to other manufacturers of shoes and boots for boys. The copper toe made a big fortune for its inventor and North Auburn was the home of the inventor and the industry. At the time of this boom in that section of Auburn, three other concerns turned out 3,828 pairs of boots and shoes monthly.

The Auburn city charter was granted February 22, 1869. Thomas Littlefield was the first mayor, and in his address he promised the enforcement of the "law for the suppression of drinking houses." But even after Auburn became legally a city it was far from metropolitan in its aspect and customs. Every progressive move was on conservative lines. The sentiment was always and still is in favor of having a good-looking place, free from the blemishes which characterize growing cities.

It was not until 1887 that the houses were numbered and a free mail delivery secured for the city. Now the delivery has been extended to the remote outskirts. The city has up-to-date improvements in all lines, including a fine fire department, an effective police force, as good a system of public schools as there is in New England, including the Edward Little High School, generally acknowledged to be fully equal to any and by many called the best school of its grade in Maine.

Auburn was the first city in Maine to manufacture shoes, and is to-day, by big odds, the greatest shoemaking city in the state. In that respect it ranks with the shoe cities of Massachusetts. The early methods in shoemaking were crude. The stock was cut at the shops, which were small affairs, and was then sent to the homes of the villagers and farmers to be made up by hand. The introduction of machinery, in 1870, brought about the factory system, and as the workmen began

to seek homes near the big shops the city grew rapidly from that time on, until now its population is not far from fifteen thousand. It is a city possessing all the elements of rapid and beautiful growth, energy, progressive spirit, education, manufacturing activity. These conditions have enabled the people to make it a city of artistic homes, a work in which they have been very much encouraged by lake, mountain and river scenery, in a combination rarely surpassed.

When a Washington newspaper, which is read by people in all parts of the Union, published an article in which it was stated that Auburn, Maine, was the banner city of the United States, its editor may have been influenced by the fact that Auburn had just contributed more to a national patriotic fund than any other city. But however this may be, there are many Auburn people who can give very acceptable reasons for designating Auburn as a place which is lavishly endowed with natural and social conditions essential to the maintenance of educational and industrial progress, which has been so largely instrumental in establishing the reputation of Maine as a fountain head of the brains and energy that constitute the corner-stone of the whole country's prosperity. While it cannot be confidently asserted that Auburn has lost the age-enduring influence imparted to so many New England cities by the fundamental principles underlying the make-up of the Pilgrim fathers and their immediate descendants, it would be obviously incorrect to say that the city has ever lost a serious opportunity to grasp the full benefit of latter-day ideas in the science of economy. That Nature has been very kind in bestowing upon Auburn facilities which are secured to other cities only by employing great engineering skill and vast amounts of money is pertinent alike to the corner-grocery philosopher and the learned student of social problems. So it has come about that Auburn's political questions involve very largely the matter of preserving for the benefit of the people the means of health and comfort which Nature has provided. Just how this has been done and is being done will be explained further on in a manner intended to show to readers that the people are enjoying at the present time privileges which other cities never had and never can have, and for which many other places have installed very costly substitutes.

To a resident of Auburn, all this is more suggestive of water than anything else. The city lives on water, figuratively speaking. Best of all, it is largely water controlled by the people. They have not only a supply sufficient for all domestic uses, but a vast surplus to sell at very reasonable rates to industrial concerns, which use its power direct or convert it into steam for the running of engines. Lake Auburn, the principal source of supply for domestic and steam-power uses, is located wholly within the limits of the city, and its water is so pure and wholesome that the people have used it for drinking without filtering for years. It comes through an aqueduct system held in trust for the city by the municipal water board, the plant having been acquired from the Auburn Aqueduct Company by a purchase authorized by an act of the Maine legislature. This transfer was brought about after a great struggle in the legislature and a city election, which showed that 1,700 out of 2,000 voters favored the public control of God-given privileges.

The lake is five miles long and about three miles wide and is fed largely by springs. The water runs to the city through iron pipes, twenty-four inches in diameter, and has proven so highly satisfactory that Lewiston also secured the

right to take water from the lake and laid a main for that purpose. Regarding Auburn's policy in connection with this great public improvement much has been written. It is simply to let the water system pay for itself, both principal and interest, by means of a schedule of rates which are being constantly reduced as the debt dwindles. The system is proving so satisfactory, and the aqueduct is such a good asset, that the rate payers feel that in paying for the service they are merely taking the money from one pocket and putting it in another. It is a form of socialism that may be talked to Auburn people with assurance.

Another advantage in the form of water that has fallen to the lot of Auburn is power afforded by the Little Androscoggin River, which enters the main river in the city proper. For years the power was used only by the Barker Mill, a large cotton industry, and a saw and grist-mill. Now, however, the power is used not only in manufacturing lumber, but in the production of agricultural implements, boxes and shipping cases, machinery and metal goods, as well as electric light and power. So by one means or another power is obtainable in any part of the city, whether it be the highest point on Auburn Heights or the lowest land of the river valley. The buzz and whirl of machinery is to be heard everywhere, except in the long, level, shaded thoroughfares which the people have wisely preserved and beautified for residential purposes. And it may as well be stated here that Auburn is a city of shade trees. Some even go so far as to say that a few of the streets are overburdened in this respect, but no trouble is borrowed on this account, as a giant elm is much more easily removed than produced. Thus far none have been sacrificed unless building operations made it absolutely necessary. That the great abundance of shade trees is not fully appreciated by all Auburn people is a deplorable truth, but it is frequently the case that some of the doubters are filled with pride by the expressions of admiration drawn from visitors by the beauties of Auburn's streets, which pass through mammoth arches formed by the overhanging branches. In how many of the cities of Auburn's size may one ride several miles without doubling and remain in the shade all of the time? And what a great pleasure it is! Strangers never fail to enthuse when they drive about Auburn's streets in the summer.

The nature of Auburn's industries is favorable to the unanimous desire of the people to keep the city in a clean and wholesome condition. The leading industry is shoemaking, and in this line the city leads the State of Maine. There are shoe shops of all sizes from the two-room establishment in a general business block to large plants occupying whole squares and employing thousands of workmen. Auburn is called the City of Shoes and it well deserves the name, for the manufacturing of shoes has been the great factor in building up a city of 15,000 people where, within the memory of men now living, the cultivating of the soil was practically the sole occupation of a population of less than 500. The shoe industry itself employs directly six or seven thousand people, and there are many more engaged in producing the many articles used by the shoe manufacturers, such as paper boxes, wooden shipping cases, heels, innersoles, lasts, patterns, shoe machinery, belting, leather board, etc. Besides these there are dozens of industries independent of the shoe business. Among the goods made in these shops are trunks, pipe packing, stoves, electrical supplies and motors, brushes, brooms, mops, bricks,

cigars, barrel headers, beehives, blank books, soda beer, brick trucks, carriages and sleighs, butter, cider mills, clothes driers, canned goods, agricultural tools and machinery, extension cases, crackers, biscuit, confectionery, ladies' outing and bicycle suits, skirts and shirt waists, True's Pin Worm Elixir, drain and sewer pipe, steam engines, shawl straps, fan mills, feed cutters, fur goods, curbing, monuments, etc., harness, hat hooks and other novelties, hollow ware, lawn settees, mattresses, patent medicines for man and beast, mill supplies, philosophical apparatus, iron sinks, soap, tinware and acetylene gas machines.

This great variety of industries was brought about by design, the plan being a part of the economic system in which Auburn people believe. They saw many cities suffering from hard times, because of a falling off in the lines of business which they had. So, notwithstanding the fact that there is always some demand for shoes, Auburn people determined to have other industries, and encouragement has been given to producers in all lines, the small shop with half a dozen men being as welcome as the big undertaking which must have the support of local capital to assure its success. The latter class have been taken in and assisted in many ways. Stock in a dozen concerns has been taken by local capitalists when manufacturing plants were contemplated, and the working capital has been liberally supplied by the local banks. In a few cases, the first attempts have been failures, but creditors and capitalists have joined hands in giving the enterprises fresh starts. The policy has proven successful, and manufacturers looking for openings can always find in Auburn men who will render them valuable assistance in getting established in that city. Intelligent help in all lines of business is to be had on short notice, as it is a city of many trades, and besides the adjacent towns furnish a constant supply of men who have learned their trades in their own places. Individual owners of land are always ready to accept reasonable prices for their holdings, and building materials are as cheap as in any part of New England. For lighting a shop, the manufacturer has his choice between two electric light companies and a gas company. An enterprising concern has also begun the manufacture of acetylene gas machines. Transportation facilities are very good, as both the Maine Central and Grand Trunk lines run into the manufacturing part of the city, each being so located that concerns at the Little Androscoggin water-power may have side and spur tracks without having to overcome serious obstacles.

Several miles of the Lewiston, Brunswick & Bath Electric Railroad are in Auburn. This includes a loop which passes near the homes of a good portion of the population, another branch known as the Belt Line, which takes in a district south of the Little Androscoggin, known as New Auburn but which is really an extension of the city proper, also a line to East Auburn and Lake Auburn, the most famous local resort. An extension to Auburn Heights is contemplated and will undoubtedly be built very soon. The city is the terminal of stage routes from a dozen surrounding towns and is well provided with telegraph and telephone connections, both east and west.

Besides having, within the limits of the city proper, beauties which are appreciated by all who see them, Auburn has in its suburbs, and wholly within its limits, a lake which for scenery is unexcelled in the State of Maine. No mountain like

Katahdin rises from it ; no majestic rock like Kineo overlooks its calm waters, but it is a picture framed with hills, woody fields and pastures, with here and there a group of pretty cottages. Pine-clad points, free from underbrush, make excellent retreats which are visited by campers and hundreds of picnic parties each summer. Outing clubs, lodges, public and Sunday-school classes, dozens of small parties organized for a day's pleasure and thousands of individual pleasure seekers go there for recreation during the summer and early autumn. Any number may go on the same day and not be crowded. There is Harlow's Point, Spring House Point, Lake Grove, the west shore, Eveleth's shore, Staples shore, and each one will accommodate several parties without inconvenience to any one.

The body of water known as Lake Auburn is reached by the Lake Grove branch of the Lewiston, Brunswick & Bath Electric Railroad. The line terminates at Lake Grove, a pretty place, shaded by both hard and soft wood trees. A restaurant is kept open there during the summer and dramatic entertainments are given on a stage built in the grove.

Up the east shore is Harlow's Point, a high, dry piece of land, on which there is a large grove of old-growth pines. The ground is carpeted with pine needles and is free from underbrush. This has been for years a favorite picnic ground and stopping place for the anglers. It is easily reached from Lake Grove in row-boats, and the steamer to North Auburn, at the head of the lake, lands there to leave and take away passengers. A ledge projects into deep water, where it ends abruptly, thus making a natural wharf, at which the steamers easily and safely come to a landing.

The northern end of the lake is a long, narrow cove and a big brook flows into it at the northern end. At the junction of this cove and the broad lake is a point on which a big summer hotel was erected and burned. The picturesque place is still a popular destination for pleasure seekers. At this part of the lake, and from here down the west shore and down the east shore to Harlow's Point and the beach beyond, are the fishing grounds most frequented by the numerous anglers who visit the lake for the trout and landlocked-salmon fishing. Along the western shore are a number of cottages owned mostly by Lewiston and Auburn people. At one sightly point is the club-house of the Twin City Cycle Club, a lively organization, which also has fine quarters in the Lewiston Trust and Safe Deposit Building, a modern granite structure on Lisbon Street, Lewiston. The southern shore is broken only by little bays, and at the Staples farm there is a big pine grove and a beach of clear, fine sand extending well into the lake.

This brings us back toward Lake Grove, but between the Staples shore and the Grove are half a dozen points and coves, making the vicinity a very charming one. Cottages and available places for many more are to be seen here as you pass along on the boat, and the locality is particularly favored by being near the terminal of the electric road from the cities.

There are untold numbers of square-tailed and rainbow trout, also landlocked salmon, in Lake Auburn, and very frequently anglers catch large strings and not be away from their places of business in town but a few hours. The lake has been stocked by artificial hatching. The first attempt to stock the lake was years ago and young fish were brought from hatcheries in other places. After this method had been found to be unsatisfactory, local sportsmen organized the Lake

Auburn Fish Protective Association. This organization built a small hatchery at the outlet and afterwards transferred it to the Maine Fish and Game Commission, on an agreement that half the young fish produced be turned loose in Lake Auburn. The state authorities moved the hatchery to Townsend's Brook, where it was enlarged. Tanks for raising small fry into fingerlings were built and a cottage erected for the superintendent. There are ponds for big fish, which afford great amusement for visitors by jumping for grasshoppers, and altogether the place is one of the most attractive in the city. The grounds about the superintendent's cottage and about the hatchery are well kept and the whole valley makes a fine rural scene. The hatchery is well equipped and spawn is hatched there every year. The spawn is taken from the fish which run up the brook each autumn. By using the ponds for the fish, many thousands are kept there and fed until they get to be fingerlings and more capable of caring for themselves than are small fry.

In praising Auburn, the writer does not wish to convey the impression that Auburn people think they have the best city on earth, but they do say that it can safely be compared with any city of its size in the country and that it lacks few of the things that go to make up a desirable locality in which to live and do business. In this short article the natural beauties of the city have received some attention, but it must not be inferred that the people have been negligent of duties outside of industry and home buildings. There are school and church buildings which may be pointed out with pride. The county buildings, including the Court House, Jail and sheriff's residence, occupy a prominent locality and are imposing structures. In front of the Court House is a fine soldiers' monument of granite, and on it are chiseled the names of the men who lost their lives while fighting for their country. Auburn's City Hall is a rather modest affair, but the city has recently purchased the adjoining land, on which a large brick house stands. In this building are located the Auburn Public Library, the offices of the mayor, city treasurer, tax collector and superintendent of schools. The purchase of this land gives the city a chance to erect at some time a City Hall that will be a building worth seeing.

No article on Auburn would be complete without some special mention of the Edward Little High School, the highest grade of the public schools of the city. The school offers a great variety of studies in three courses, college preparatory, English and classical. The institution is equipped with a chemical laboratory that would be a credit to a college, a well-equipped department for experiments in natural science and a reference library. Its corps of teachers are the best that American colleges produce, and its standing as a preparatory school is so excellent that all colleges are glad to get its graduates.

Auburn has two excellent hotels. The Elm House, located on Court Street, has been a famous stopping place with travelers for years. The present building has been built but a few years and is on the site of an old-time hostelry that has sheltered all the dignitaries who ever made extended visits to this part of the state. The Maine Hotel, situated on Main Street, is also a new structure on the site of an inn that in the days of our grandfathers was the gathering place of the most prominent people of Central Maine.

Auburn has attractions which are not easily set forth on paper. In fact, many people express favorable sentiments without giving explicit reasons. It is, undoubtedly, because so many conditions contribute their influences to bring about one grand result that explanations would be laborious, but it may be truthfully said in a general way that the people themselves are to be credited with the admirable features of Auburn's social organization which give them and their guests so much satisfaction. The social, economical and commercial standards established by the people are kept constantly in sight, just as the principles of a truly moral and religious man prevail in his every-day life. Auburn people are ever loyal to a good cause and strong in their support of any one who correctly represents their ideas of justice when occasion arises for their views to be expounded in representative assemblages. A high standard of respectability prevails in Auburn. Auburn has never been noted as the home of any contingent of the extremely exclusive kind, but the influence of her people of notable social distinction is wholesome and widespread. The ambitions of the people are inspired by the visible results of thrift and industry rather than by any extravagant display of luxuries that money will purchase. Auburn has men of prestige who do not falter when the time comes to lead the people against an impending evil, and who in turn are ready to encourage all forms of recreation and education which will elevate and invigorate the community.

As important evidence to corroborate these general statements, the never-failing jealousy with which the welfare of the public schools is guarded may be mentioned. The absolute absence of any political encouragement of lawlessness and the general opposition to any condition that hints at collusion between law-breakers and public servants have given Auburn an enviable reputation among cities. Auburn has been accused of being too conservative, but the results attained have never yet proven obnoxious to those whose welfare is closely identified with the general progress of the city. That the city has avoided anything like notoriety is eminently satisfactory to the citizens who believe that it is best to be ready for company at all times. On the occasion of large gatherings in this section, such as at State Fair time and Merchants' Weeks, Auburn is a quiet and much-favored place of temporary abode for many visitors who must have rest after each day's festivities. Its fine drives and scenic attractions make a refreshing contrast after a season of excitement, and the hospitality of the people often tempts strangers to prolong their visits days after the public observances of the occasion have been brought to a close. The city is the summer home of not a few people whose busy seasons keep them in other places during a greater part of the year. The region of Lake Auburn and Mount Gile is attractive to cottagers, and wheelmen enjoy trips about Auburn very much, as about fifty miles of bicycle path are maintained by local contribution and municipal appropriation.

Let us close briefly with this advice, if you wish to know just what Auburn is, come and see the place.



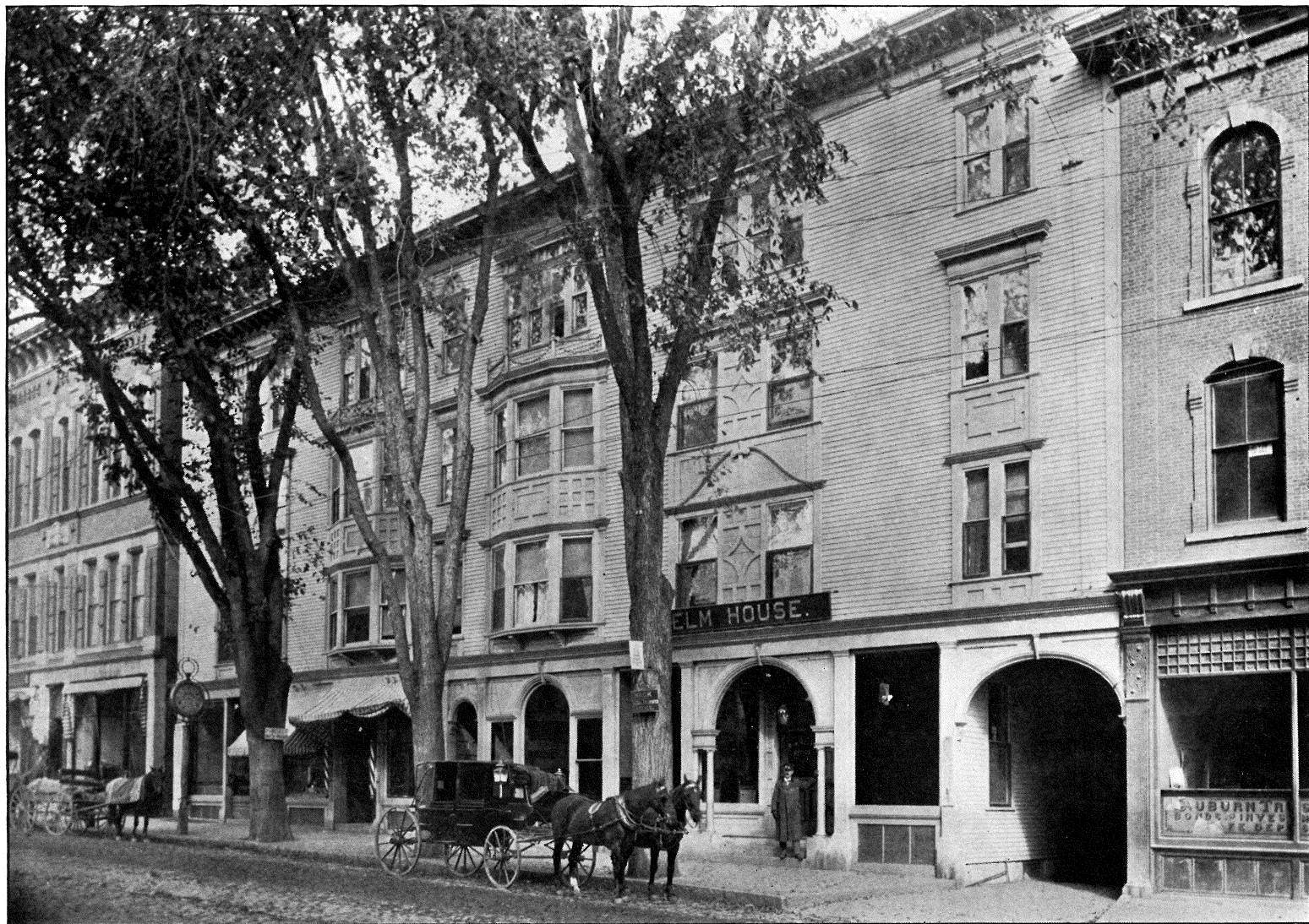
MAIN STREET, AUBURN, LOOKING SOUTH.



NORTH SIDE OF COURT STREET, AUBURN.



COUNTY BUILDINGS, AUBURN.



ELM HOUSE, AUBURN.



GOFF BLOCK AND MAIN STREET, AUBURN.



VIEW FROM COURT STREET HILL, AUBURN, LOOKING EAST.



TURNER STREET, AUBURN, LOOKING NORTH.



HOLMAN F. DAY'S RESIDENCE, CORNER COURT AND GOFF STREETS, AUBURN.



CHAS. L. CUSHMAN'S RESIDENCE, AUBURN.



COURT STREET, FROM MAIN STREET, LOOKING WEST, AUBURN.



EDWARD LITTLE HIGH SCHOOL.



CONVENT SCHOOL, NEW AUBURN.



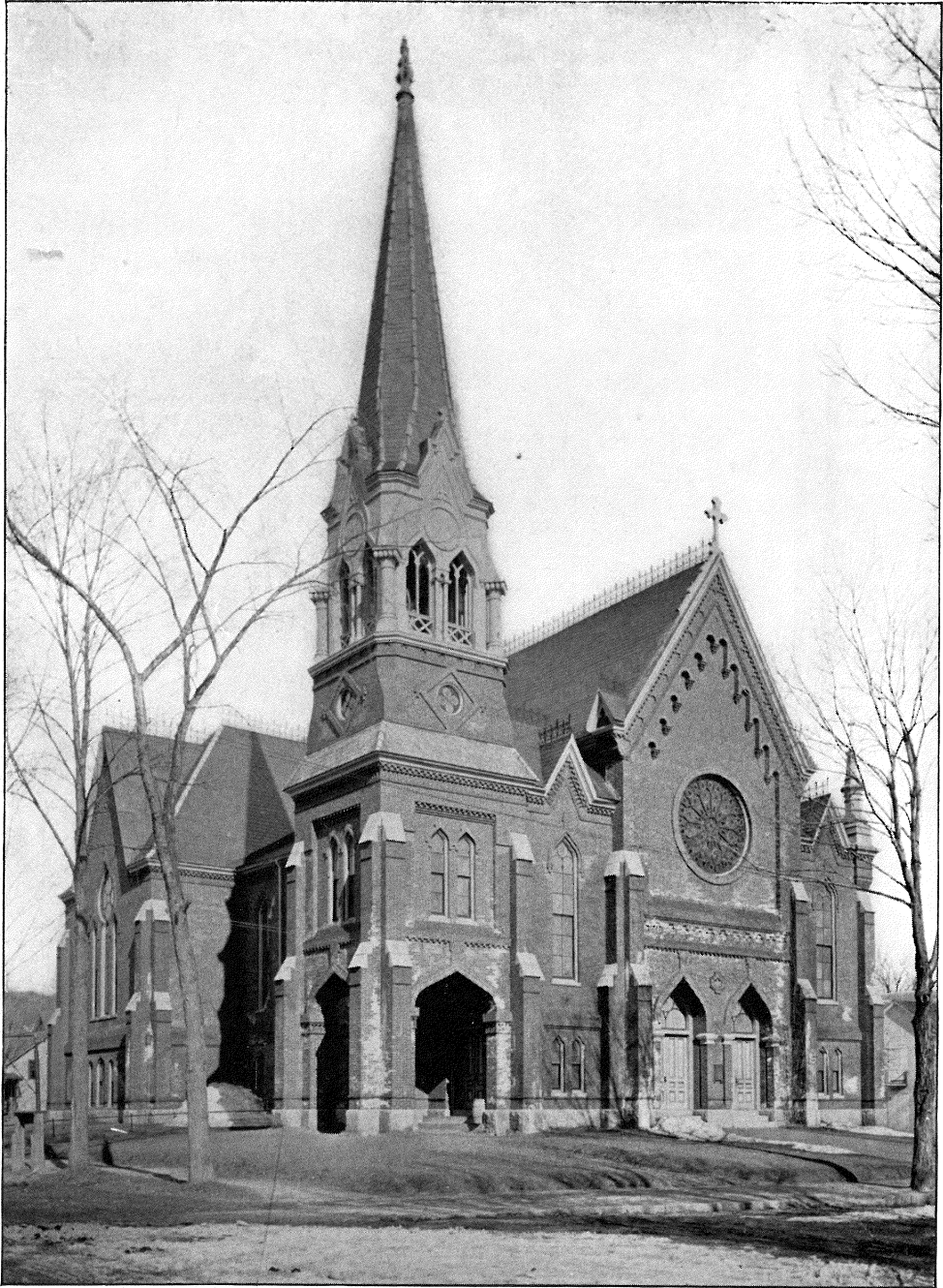
A WINTER SCENE, PERRYVILLE GULLY, AUBURN.



IN MARSHY WOODS, NEAR LITTLEFIELD'S, AUBURN.



STUDY OF BOATS, LAKE GROVE, AUBURN.



ELM STREET UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, AUBURN.



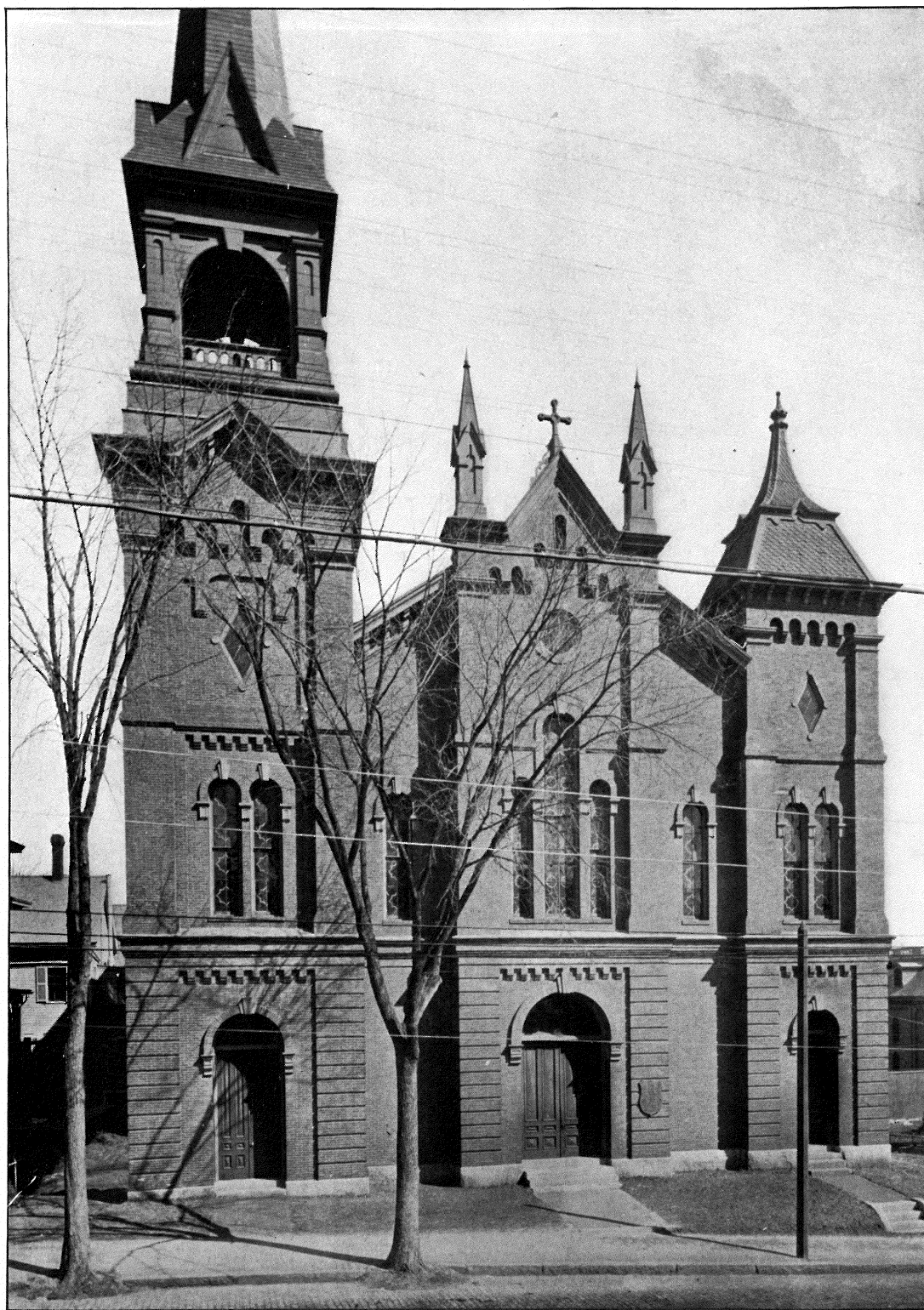
HIGH STREET M. E. CHURCH, AUBURN.



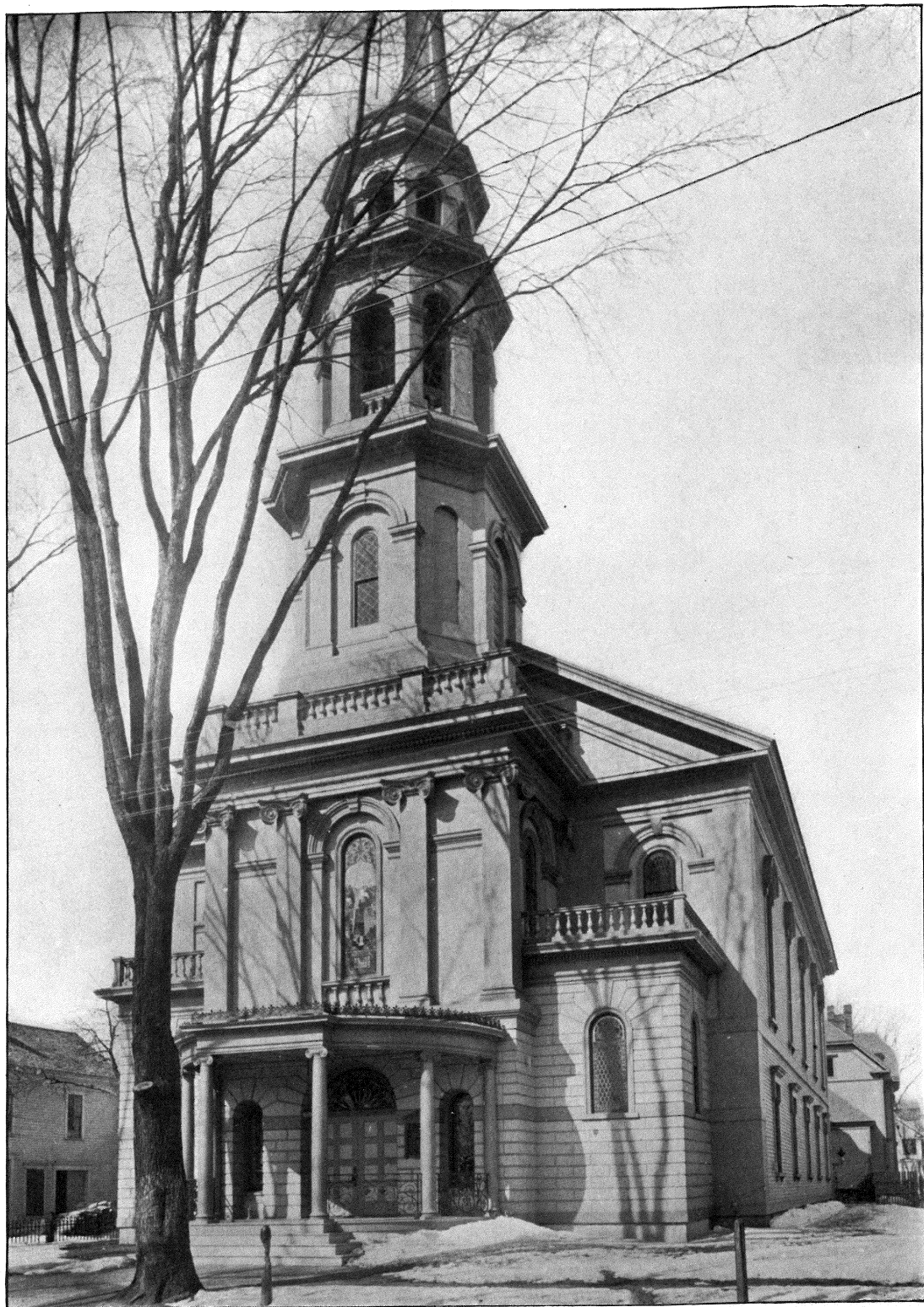
A PHOTO OF TWO PROFILES. INDIAN HEAD ON LEFT AND OLD MAN OF THE FALLS ON THE RIGHT, FROM AUBURN SIDE.



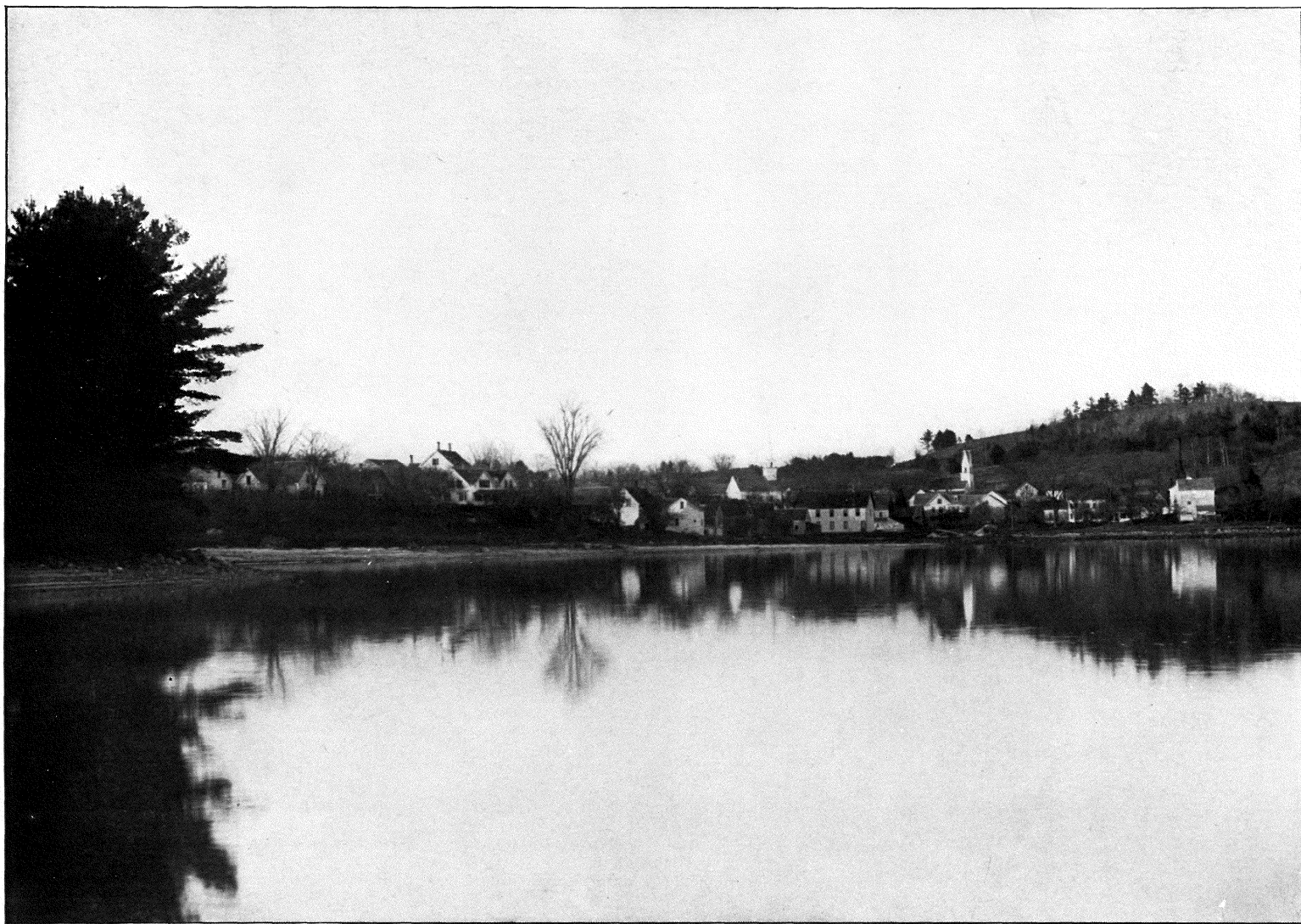
A SHOWERY AFTERNOON. VIEW NEAR LITTLE WILSON POND, NEAR N. AUBURN.



COURT STREET CALVINIST BAPTIST CHURCH, AUBURN.



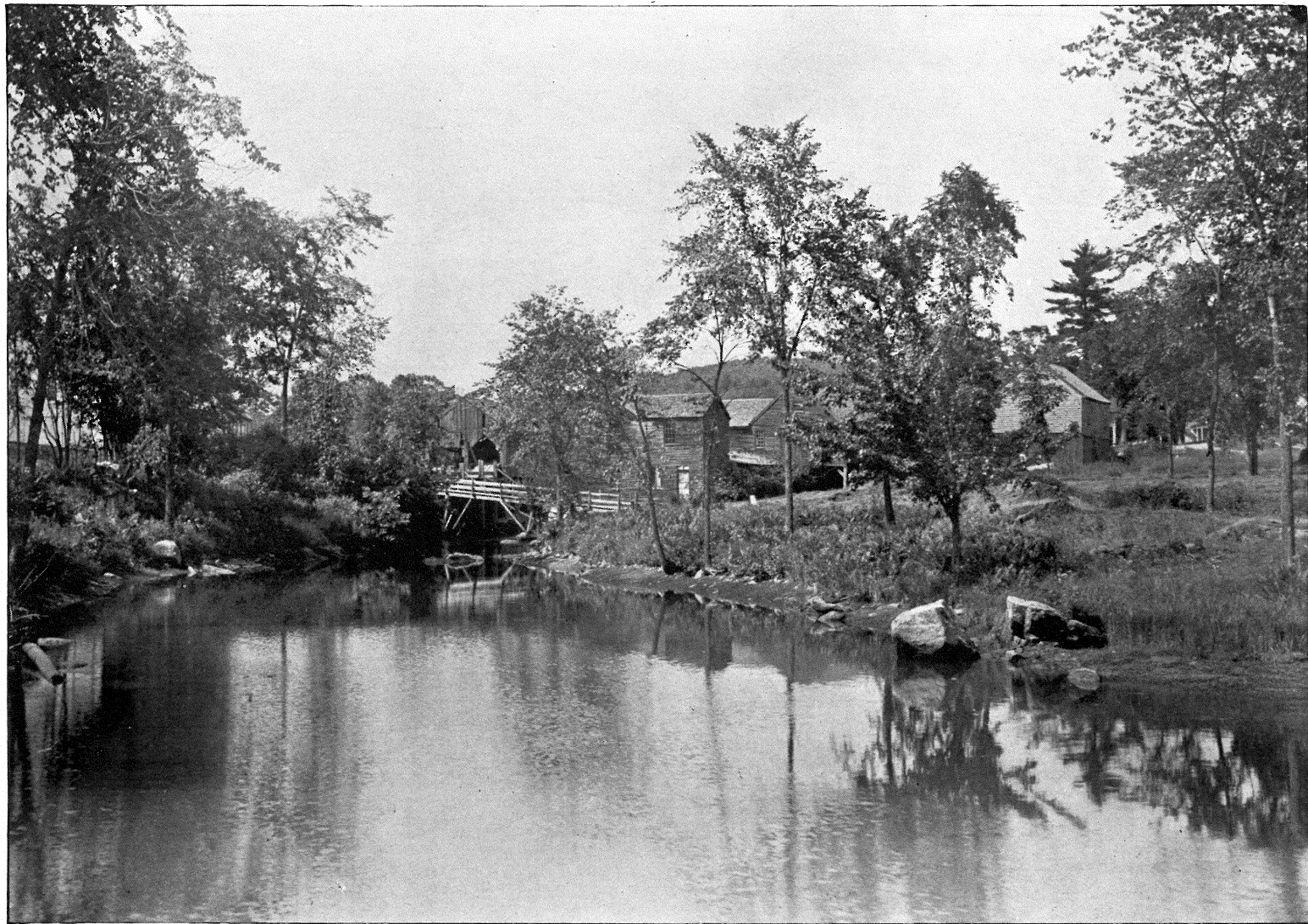
HIGH STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, AUBURN.



NORTH AUBURN.



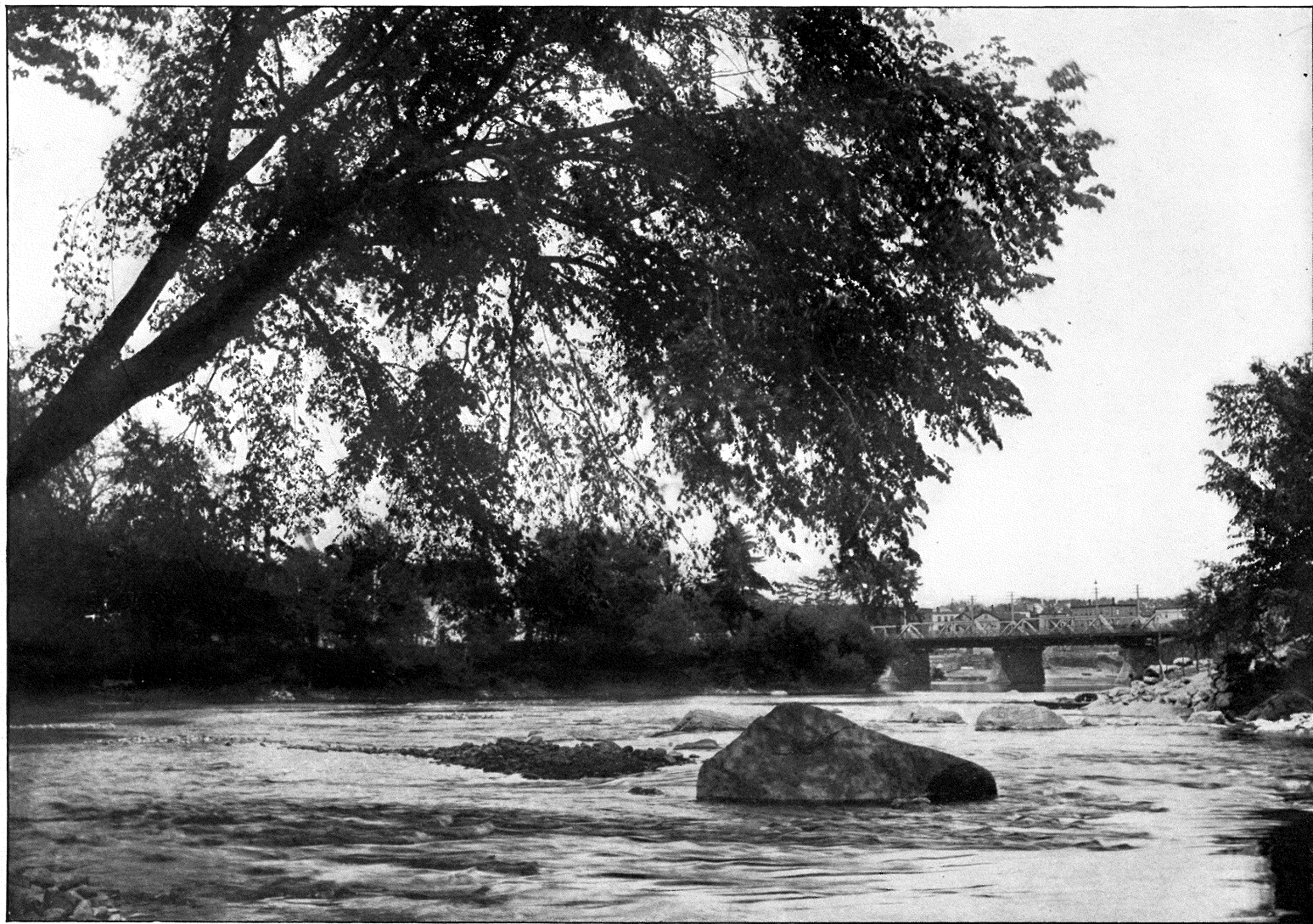
NOVEMBER. BOBBIN-MILL BROOK.



BOBBIN-MILL BROOK, EAST AUBURN.



WEBSTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL, SPRING STREET, AUBURN.



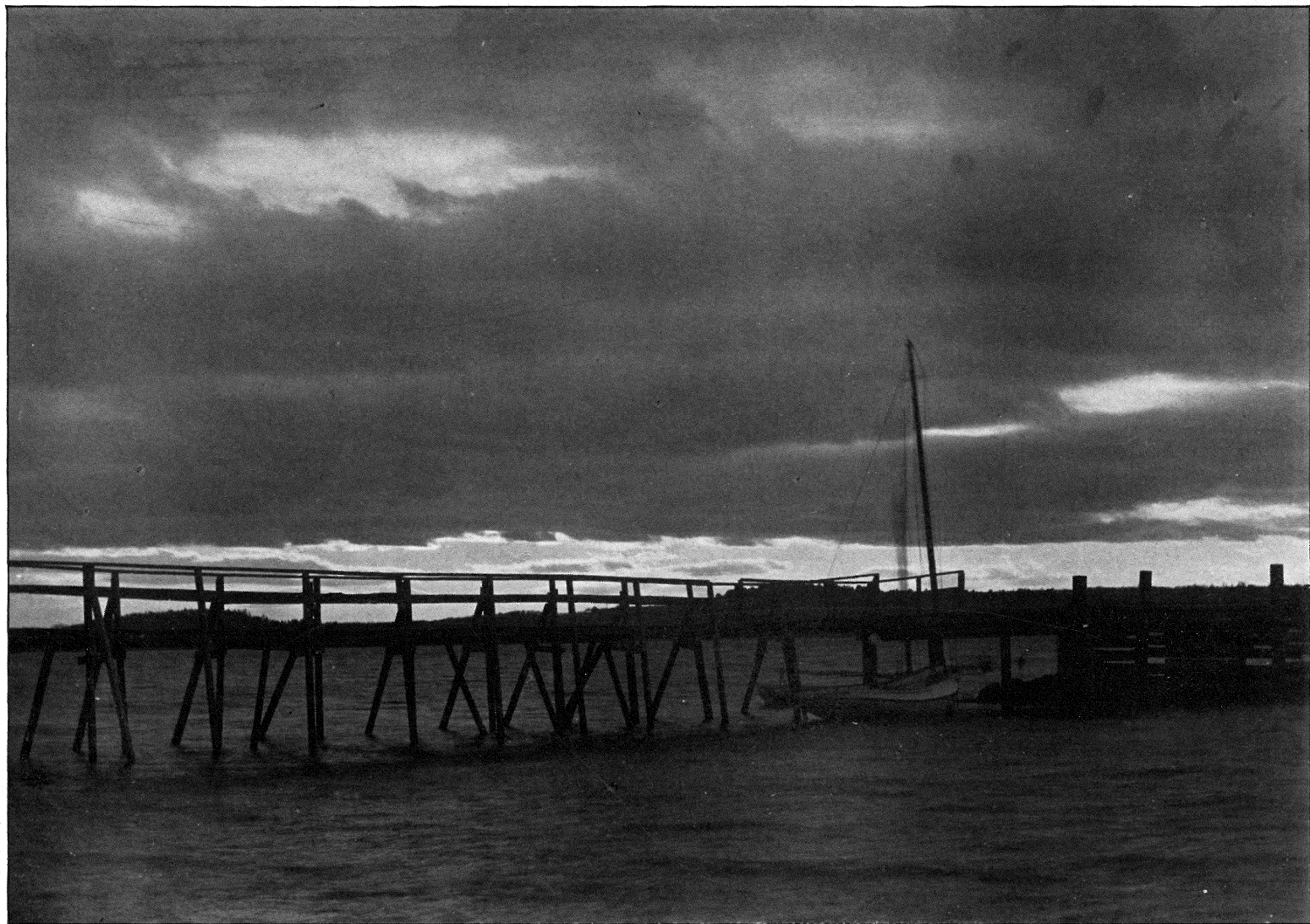
LITTLE ANDROSCOGGIN AND ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER JUNCTION.



A SCENE ON SABATTIS RIVER.



GOFF STREET, FROM COURT.



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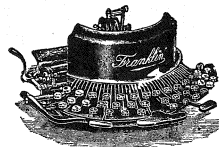
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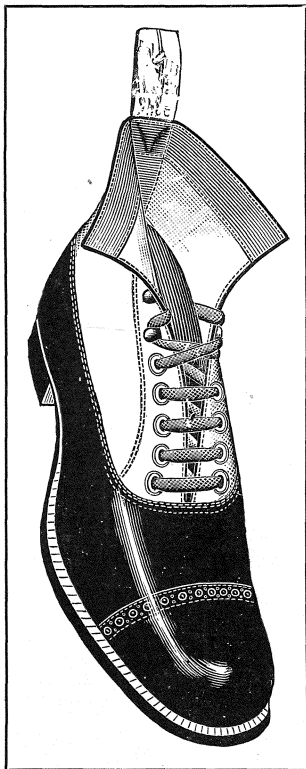
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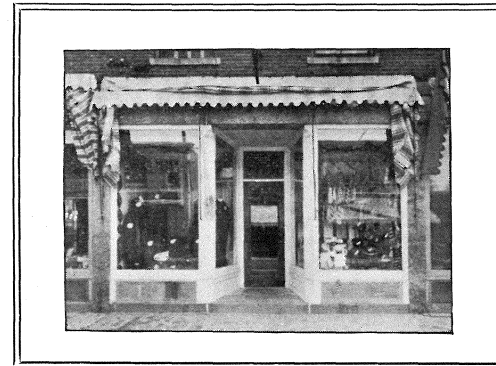
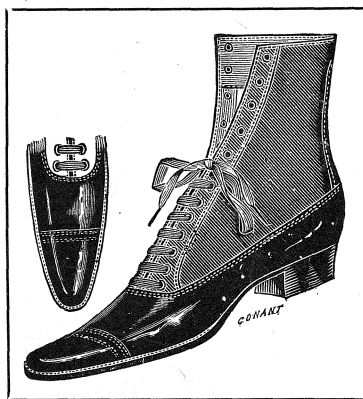
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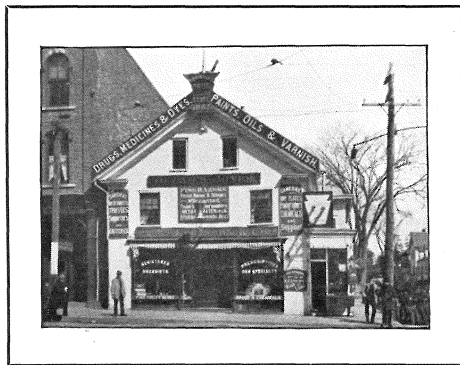
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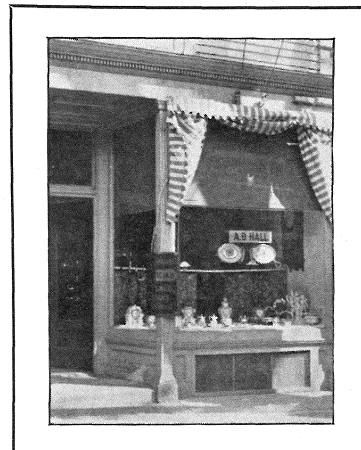
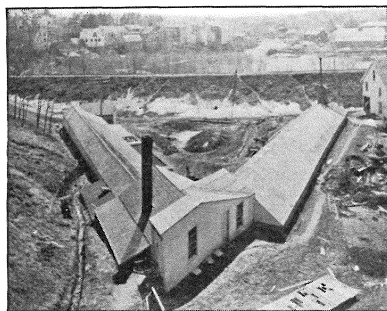
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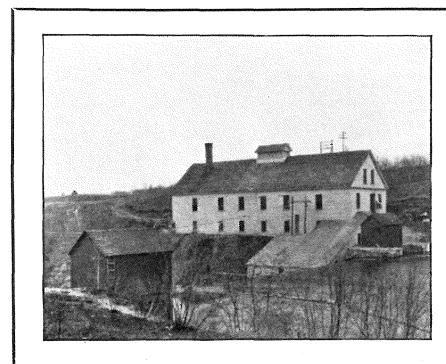
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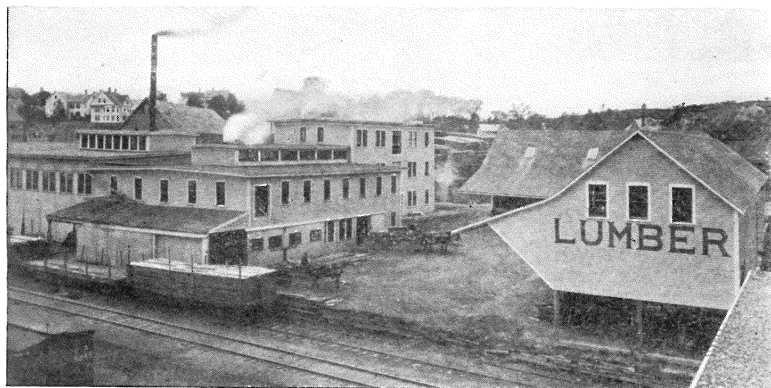


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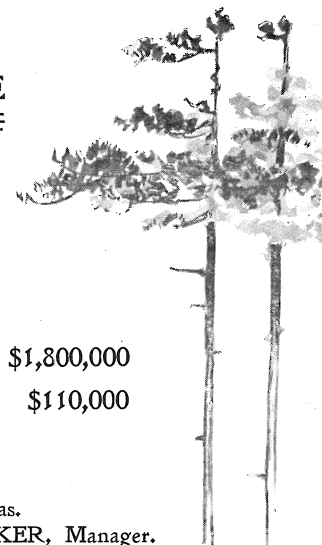
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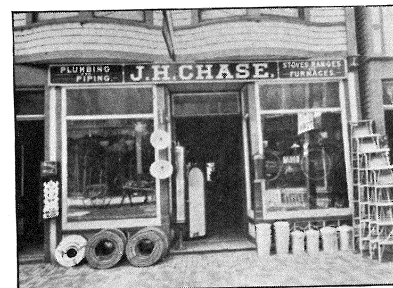
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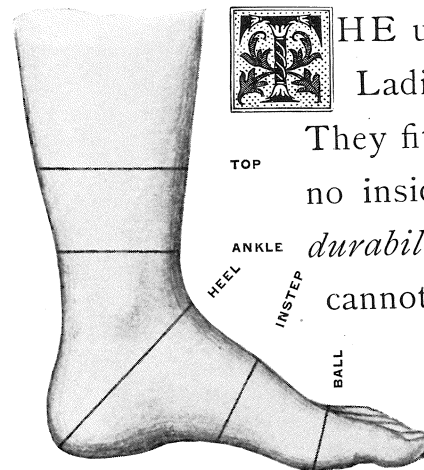


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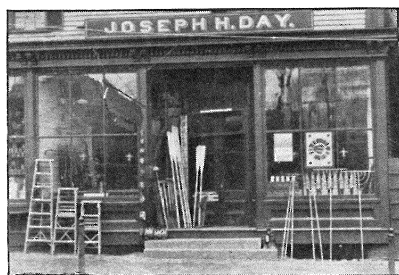
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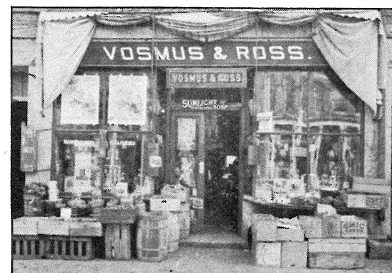
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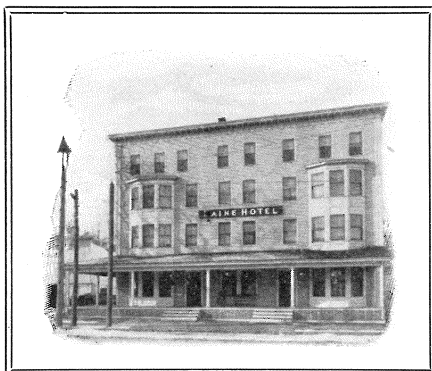
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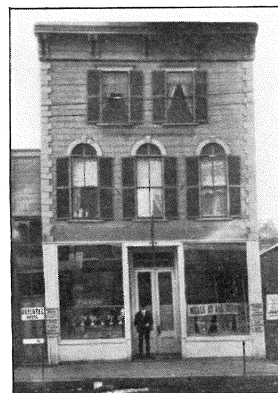
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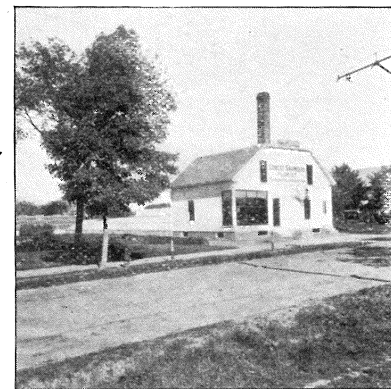
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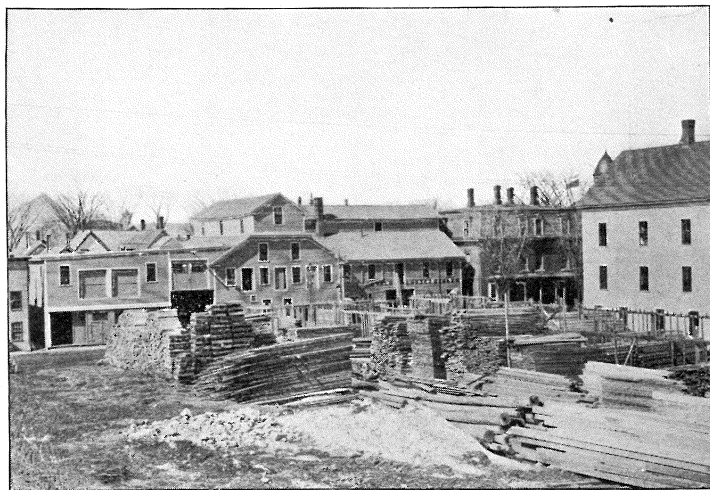
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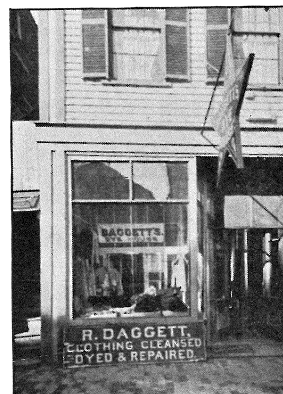
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