

# A Few Points about Camden



**New Streets**  
**New Water Supply**  
**Up-to-date Police Department**  
**Three New Fire Houses**  
**New Public Park**  
**New Public Library**  
**Immense Ship Building Plant**  
**New High School**  
**Magnificent New Armory**

All these improvements and yet taxes  
have been decreased

For Library Use Only  
**DO NOT CIRCULATE**



Camden Business Mens League  
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**To the Voters of the  
City and County of  
Camden: ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖**

The Business Men's League, of Camden, presents this pamphlet to the voters of Camden City and County, for the purpose of calling their attention to the phenomenal growth of the city under the administration of Cooper B. Hatch as Mayor, and, at the same time, to present the name of our former Chief Magistrate as the League's candidate for the office of High Sheriff of the County, to be voted for at the coming Fall election.

The new life infused into a dormant business community by Mayor Hatch gave him the unqualified endorsement of the Business Men's League for re-election as Mayor in the Spring of 1901, but the action of the State Legislature abolishing Spring elections, postponed the casting of the municipal ballots until the following November, when Mr. Hatch still retained the lasting endorsement of the Business Men's League.

That the selection of a candidate at the last Republican Mayorality Convention was not in accordance with the wishes of a large majority of the Republican voters of the City is a matter of history that needs no comment at this time.

The proof of Camden's rapid growth, due to the energy and executive ability displayed by former Mayor Hatch during his administration as Chief Executive, is apparent on every hand. Modern well-paved streets, pure water, a public park and the erection of large industrial establishments which has given our citizens employment, besides bringing many thousands of people to our City as permanent residents are a few of the achievements that mark a bright page in the history of our municipality.

The needs of the County to-day are identified with those of our City some few years ago. The new Camden is an object lesson for the residents of the County to carefully study.

We feel sure that what Cooper B. Hatch has accomplished in the City he can successfully carry into the County. With that bold and fearless progressive spirit which characterized his administration as Mayor, coupled with a determination to place the City a leader in its class in the State, he is well equipped to administer to the office of High Sheriff of the County. It requires just such progressive ideas and indefatigable labor as displayed by Mayor Hatch to lift the County of Camden to the high plane of prosperity to which it belongs, and in asking for the support of all good citizens of the City and County for the candidacy of Cooper B. Hatch for the office of Sheriff we have only the welfare and desire for continued advancement in the City and County at heart.



COOPER B. HATCH, MAYOR

Under whose administration Camden has made great strides.



## The New Camden as Seen by Business Men whose only Interest is the Welfare of their City ❖ ❖ ❖



PERHAPS no city in the United States has enjoyed more prosperity and made such rapid strides as has our own city of Camden during the past three years. Were anyone who knew this city but a few years ago, Rip Van Winkle-like to return to it to-day, his amazement would be akin to that of the old fellow of whose experience we have so often heard. It would be difficult to recognize in the progressive, sturdy, young commonwealth, which is to-day claiming recognition as a business and manufacturing centre, the old town of Camden we knew four short years ago.

It seems as if some wonderful elixir of life, some young blood had been infused into the veins of the old place, and in its stead has arisen a young giant whose future no one can foretell. To the business men the change has been a profitable one ; to the residents and taxpayers it has been a source of pride. It may be interesting to the reader to look about him and see what the Camden of to-day is like, and we have enlisted the aid of the camera and statistician to show some of the improvements which have been effected by our city authorities in their efforts to keep our city forging to the front, and not halting or sliding backward. Too much credit cannot be given to the city officials under whose care the city has thus gone forward, while to his Honor, Mayor Hatch, whose hand has held the helm, whose indomitable will and spirit have enabled him to

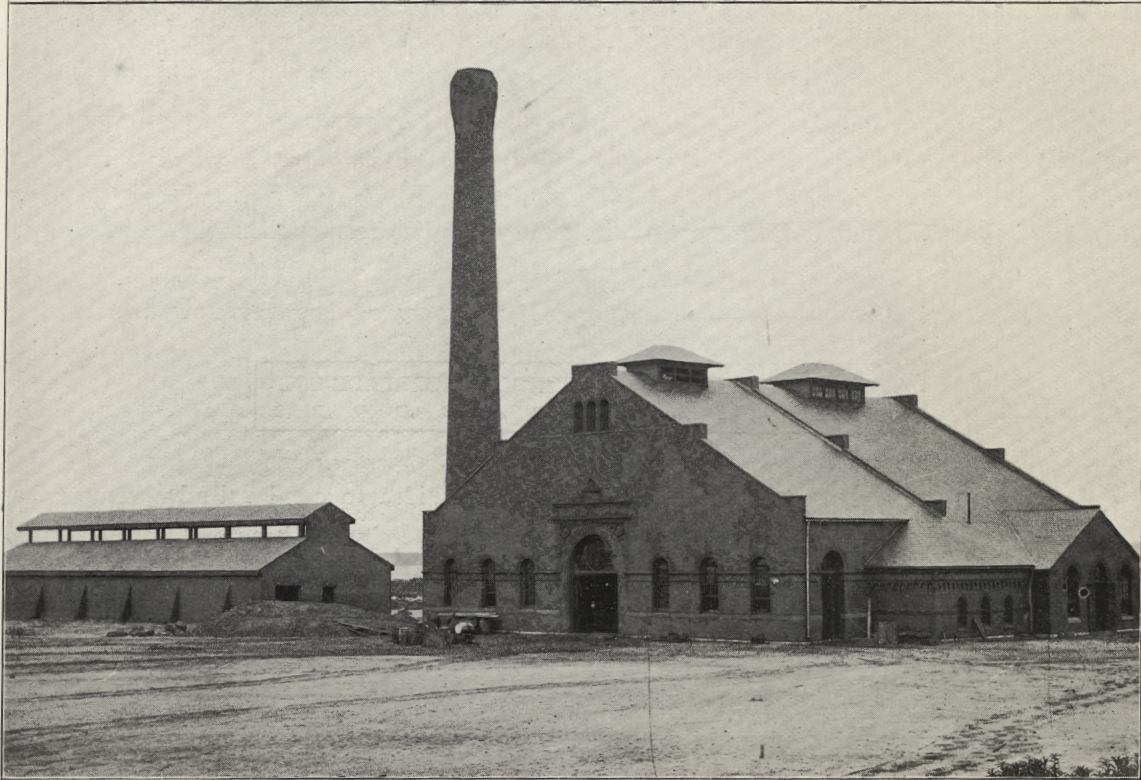


COOPER PARK AND FREE LIBRARY

successively surmount each obstacle, and whose keen perception and ability as a successful business man have solved many an intricate problem of finance and government, is due the highest praise and respect from his fellow citizens.

**Cooper Park and Free Library** ❖ ❖ While yet but an infant, comparatively speaking, the Free Library on Cooper Street already offers to the seeker after knowledge that which is contained in upwards of six thousand seven hundred volumes, all snugly ensconced in the stately old Cooper Mansion, reposing in the beautiful park of that name, whose old trees offer refreshing shade, while beautiful flowers and well-kept grass make a background peculiarly adapted to the needs of such a library. This library to-day has two thousand seven hundred readers who are gaining benefit and gleaning wisdom from this modern municipal enterprise.

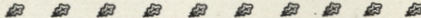
**Camden's New Street System** ❖ ❖ The most radical departure noticeable in the new city of Camden, which would attract the attention of a casual visitor, is our new street paving. Here, in place of the ancient, antiquated, bone-racking cobblestone of a bygone era, has been substituted the newer and more modern sheet asphalt pavement. Instead of thoroughfares paved with what appeared to be some glacial relic, which in its roll down through the ages had acquired a degree of roundness, and which some deluded person had imagined fit for paving purposes, we now have broad, handsome, smoothly-paved avenues upon which it is a pleasure to drive, ride or walk. Camden to-day has no less than seventeen miles of improved pavements, and seven of our leading business streets and thoroughfares are paved with sheet asphalt.




NEW WATER WORKS

These improvements have all been made within the past three years. Besides this, there is involved in litigation at this time, over fifty thousand dollars which will ultimately accrue to the city and be expended on improved pavements, while Third Street will no doubt also be paved during the present year from Erie Street to Mechanic Street with a sheet asphalt pavement, the result of a condition imposed upon the street railway company now occupying it.

In the street-cleaning department a more up-to-date system has been applied whereby the city does its own work at a great saving, and to the satisfaction of the workingman, and the lowest wage paid to the laborer has been fixed by ordinance at not less than \$1.50 per day. The city now owns and operates

**A COMPLETE STREET-CLEANING AND GARBAGE-COLLECTING PLANT** 

**Improvements in the Police Department** 

In this department, Mayor Hatch, with an idea to continual advancement, has completely revolutionized the old methods. The city has been partitioned off into police districts of which there are three, each in charge of a Captain and Sergeant, to whom the men report for duty. Each hour every policeman on duty is required to report, through a modernized telephone system, for orders to the headquarters in the City Hall, with the result that no crime can be committed without the whole department being on the alert for the criminal within less than an hour after its occurrence. This system has already resulted in some remarkable captures, and prevents the dereliction of



NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS  
Fifth and Arch Streets

duty so prevalent under the old system. Once a week the men have been given a semi-military drill by a thorough drill-master, with the result of great improvement in their general bearing and conduct. Under a capable chief of police and his fellow heads of department a degree of efficiency has been arrived at in this department which was never dreamed of in past years. This department, which compares favorably with any other city of the size of Camden in the country, consists as follows :

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>1 CHIEF OF POLICE</b>  | <b>82 PATROLMEN</b>     |
| <b>3 CAPTAINS</b>         | <b>1 POLICE SURGEON</b> |
| <b>3 STREET SERGEANTS</b> | <b>2 PATROL WAGONS</b>  |
| <b>2 HALL SERGEANTS</b>   | <b>1 AMBULANCE</b>      |
| <b>2 HALL OFFICERS</b>    | <b>2 DETECTIVES</b>     |

## **Fire Department Forging Ahead**

The Fire Department has kept pace in the march of progress, and Camden to-day has a department of which it may well be proud. This improvement consists of three handsome new firehouses which form subjects of illustration, while new apparatus and additional men have been added to maintain the high standard set in this direction. The equipment now comprises the following :

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1 CHIEF ENGINEER</b>        | <b>67 FIREMEN</b>                |
| <b>2 ASSISTANT ENGINEERS</b>   | <b>4 HOUSEMEN</b>                |
| <b>APPARATUS</b>               |                                  |
| <b>5 Steam Engines</b>         | <b>3 Hook and Ladder Trucks</b>  |
| <b>2 Two-Wheel Hose Carts</b>  | <b>2 Chemical Engines</b>        |
| <b>4 Four-Wheel Hose Carts</b> | <b>2 Chief Engineer's Wagons</b> |
| <b>1 Supply Wagon</b>          |                                  |



A VIEW AT FOURTH AND FEDERAL STREETS

## **Camden's Water Supply** ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

The next matter upon which we touch is one which every man, woman and child in Camden regards with pleasure and pride, to which we point and can defy any other city in all our broad land to excel, viz. : our water supply. The illustration herewith presented, it is true, gives but little idea of the results obtained, yet the cold, sparkling and refreshing draught of pure water, always at our command, amply repays the large expenditure and the long and tedious delays which fell to Camden's lot by reason of the obstructions placed in the way of the city obtaining possession of this new plant, but which was finally secured through the determined efforts of an energetic Mayor and City Council. As an investment, the new water supply has proved a veritable boom to Camden. Empty houses have filled up; good health has resulted and the death rate has decreased. The following table is a remarkable exhibit and has attracted attention from even the United States authorities who have the vital statistics of the country in their charge :

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Deaths</b> | <b>Population</b> |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>1895</b> | <b>1,260</b>  | <b>63,467</b>     |
| <b>1896</b> | <b>1,339</b>  | <b>64,000</b>     |
| <b>1897</b> | <b>1,364</b>  | <b>65,000</b>     |
| <b>1898</b> | <b>1,304</b>  | <b>66,000</b>     |
| <b>1899</b> | <b>1,306</b>  | <b>73,000</b>     |
| <b>1900</b> | <b>1,305</b>  | <b>75,935</b>     |

Proving that in the past three years, since the new water supply and the general cleaning up of the old Camden, the death rate has actually decreased, and this, too, despite the fact that there are upwards of thirteen thousand more residents in Camden now than then.



NEW EAST SIDE FIRE HOUSE  
Twenty-seventh and Federal Streets

## Improvement in Newly Annexed District

Over in the newly annexed district a condition existed when it was made a part of Camden, which was enough to appall the guardians of Camden's welfare. Out of disorder and chaos has been evolved a well governed and orderly community which is a credit to the city. With every appropriation exhausted and the old town of Stockton \$50,000 in debt, besides being bonded for over \$220,000, as well as being behind in its expenditures almost \$40,000, all or part of which was mis-appropriated in paying current bills which Camden City proper was compelled to make good, affairs have been gradually straightened out, and to-day the good people of that section are thankful that the change was made. An efficient police system was founded which immediately cleaned out the dives on River Shore which had made of the Sabbath a carnival of crime, while a paid fire department has been instituted with two fire companies and up-to-date apparatus. Sewers have been laid as far as possible, and new pavements are promised shortly.

## City's Finances in Healthy Shape

It is strange but true that despite the fact that the improvements which have been effected have cost the city immense expenditures of money, yet so well have the financial affairs been handled that the tax rate has not been increased, but on the contrary during the three years which the present administration has held the reins, the tax rate has been actually lowered, viz. :

|                |        |                |        |
|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| 1897 . . . . . | \$2.20 | 1899 . . . . . | \$2.20 |
| 1898 . . . . . | 2.10   | 1900 . . . . . | 2.14   |

1901 1.96



BROADWAY, NORTH FROM ROYDEN STREET



COOPER HOSPITAL  
Sixth and Stevens Streets



Photo by H. Shaw.

LINDEN TERRACE, EAST OF FOURTH STREET

This means in actual figures a saving of \$48,455.00 to taxpayers, and during this administration the average tax rate for three years has been \$2.14 $\frac{2}{3}$ , which with the discount makes the net rate a little over \$2.00.

**Sinking Fund Established** ❖ ❖ During all her history, prior to 1896, Camden never pretended to make an effort to lay aside a Sinking Fund with which to pay off her maturing indebtedness, but a change has come and to-day we have upwards of \$125,000 drawing interest at a rate of 4 per cent. which will be increased within a few months to the tidy sum of \$200,000.


The city's credit as shown by our recent bond sales is equal to the best of any city in the land and excels that of most of them, exceedingly large premiums being paid by bankers and brokers for the privilege of disposing of the city's bonds.

The city treasury has carried for two years the handsome balance of \$100,000, and will maintain this magnificent record if the present able management of affairs is continued.

**Public Baths Next** ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ The question of public baths is now being seriously discussed by the city authorities, and another year will doubtless see this needed improvement added to our already large growth in the right direction.



NEW FIRE HOUSE  
Sixth Street and Kaighns Avenue

**The School System**  The school system of the city of Camden has probably been less understood by the people than has any other Department; and the facts which have been discovered in our research into this section of the city's government we feel should be laid before the voters. For three years Mayor Hatch has withstood calumny, slander, insinuation, falsehood, and what not, never making reply, but working on with that dogged spirit of grit and determination which marks all his actions, and the amazing, almost impossible fact is now laid bare on the official school records that where at the beginning of his term there were but 9325 school children receiving a public school education, to-day there are enrolled in our public schools the enormous number of nearly 15,000 children who are receiving their education at almost the same cost as it took to educate the original 9325.

These figures prove the above statement :

|  | School Appropriation | No. of Pupils |
|--|----------------------|---------------|
| 1897 . . . . .   | \$239,850.00         | 9,325         |
| 1900 . . . . .   | 269,750.00           | 15,000        |
| Increase of Pupils over 60 per cent.<br>Increase of Expense only 12½ per cent. |                      |               |

Much of this year's increase in the appropriation was occasioned by improvements on the east side and the necessary change of their books to conform to our grades, as well as by the number of pupils in our High School being nearly doubled.



THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL  
Haddon and Newton Avenues

There has been added to the school system a magnificent High School which is now fitting out for their missions in life 309 young men and women as against 136 formerly. The cost of this improvement was 9½ cents per cubic foot, while the Boston school, after which it is modelled, cost 17 cents per cubic foot. This estimate for both schools is based on the buildings complete, including heating and ventilation, but not including the equipment for machinery and appliances.

The new High School, including heating, lighting, machinery, engines, boilers and other furnishings and appliances, cost in round figures \$125,000, but it could not be replaced to-day for less than \$155,000.

In addition to this improvement, 96 new school-rooms and 3 kindergartens are now in operation with great success. Our school system has made rapid strides during the past three years.

At the meeting of the State Teachers' Association in Newark in December, the progress of the Camden Schools during the year preceding was especially noted and much commented upon.

The points especially commended were that Camden had improved its system of general supervision, granted a tenure of position to teachers, adopted an improved, progressive, and just schedule of teachers' salaries, introduced systematic instruction in music under competent direction, completely revised the methods of instruction in drawing and placed it under proper direction, further developed the work in physical culture introduced a year ago, increased the facilities and broadened the instruction in manual training, revised the courses of study in the High School, and made the Normal course to conform to the requirements of the new school law.



COOPER STREET, LOOKING WEST FROM SEVENTH STREET

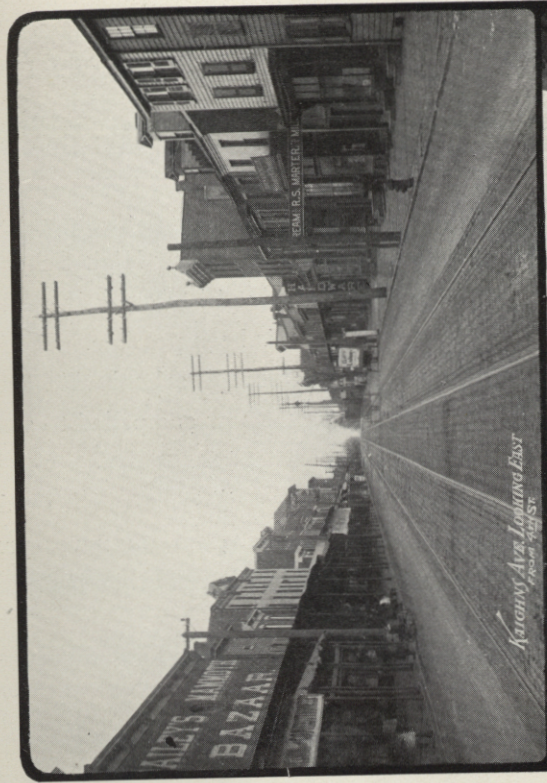
The effect of these changes is already apparent in the greatly improved efficiency of the schools in general, though the changes are such that their greatest strength lies in the fact that their beneficial influence becomes stronger and stronger with each year's advancement. The good results produced are permanent and increasing.

The new school law places the tenure of position of teachers entirely in the hands of the local school boards. The School Commission of Camden was the first in the state to take advantage of this power and grant to its competent teachers security in their positions.

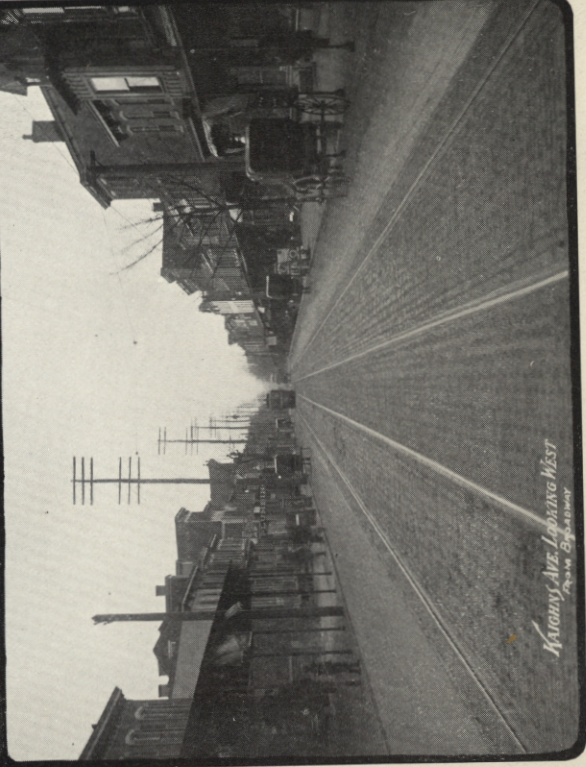
This action was gratefully acknowledged by the Teachers' Club, which includes in its membership fully three-fourths of all the teachers in the city.

This tenure of position rule does not, however, tie the hands of the school authorities with reference to incompetent or unqualified teachers.

The schedule of salaries is now so adjusted that a faithful, competent teacher can advance in salary year by year up to the maximum, regardless of the grade taught, and without having to depend upon the marriage, resignation or death of the teachers above her in rank to make a place for her. The old system produced marked distinctions which were not due to greater or less efficiency, but in many instances to accident or undue influence. The new plan is a material gain to a great majority of the teachers of the city and disadvantageous to none. Its particular point of strength in its application to this city is that it elevates the standing of the primary teacher to a point that is more nearly commensurate with her responsibility. She is not kept at the



*Kaighns Ave. Looking East  
from West St.*



*Kaighns Ave. Looking West  
from East St.*

TWO VIEWS OF KAIGHNS AVENUE

very bottom of the ladder. This schedule is along the same lines as those recently adopted in New York City, Philadelphia, and other cities.

The course of study in the High and Manual School has been revised to make it conform to the standard required by the State Board of Education of New Jersey and of other states. As now arranged, this course affords preparation for any line of work a boy or girl may desire to follow after leaving school. A broad general education is now possible for the scholar who closes his school course in our High School. On the other hand, the courses planned afford ample preparation to enable a boy or girl to enter any college or professional school in the country. Only under the new course of study has this been possible. Preliminary arrangements have already been made by which graduates of the four-year course in this school will be received into many of the best colleges without examination. Camden parents are not now compelled to send their children to Philadelphia or elsewhere for their college preparatory work as in years past.

This magnificent work has been accomplished in the face of the harshest criticism which would have made most men turn back, but to his everlasting honor and credit Mayor Hatch has gone on, never proclaiming his works, and we, as business men, feel it is but his just due to pay him this tribute at this time.

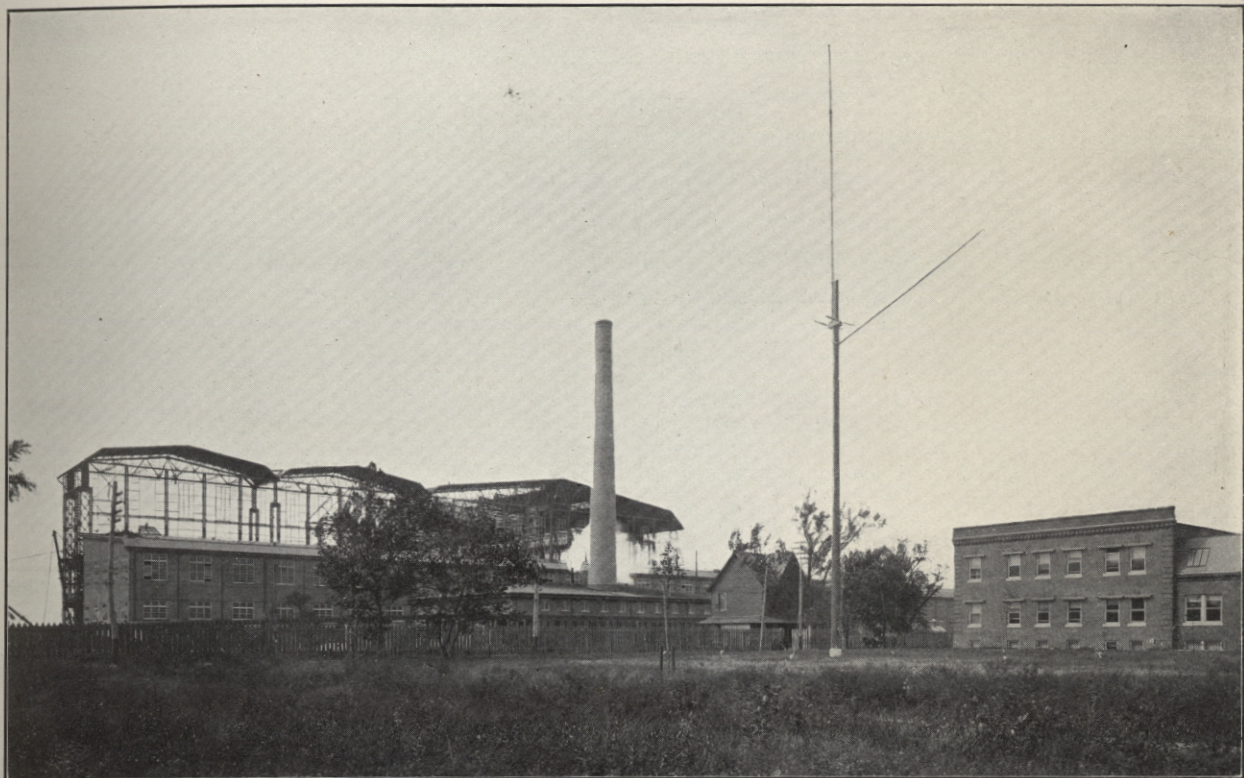
**Capital and Industry are Attracted** ✻ ✻ ✻ The progress of Camden has been noted by the outside world, and vast amounts of capital are being drawn hither. The location of the New York Shipbuilding Company, brought about by the energetic efforts of our Mayor and City Council, is the highest tribute to the government of Camden, while the fact of other immense concerns deciding on our city as their



THIRD AND MARKET STREETS

future headquarters is but an endorsement by capital of a careful, business-like administration of municipal affairs. It is estimated that the concerns now located, or contemplating locating in Camden, will employ upwards of ten thousand men, which will make our city a labor centre.

**Duty of Capital,  
Labor and Trade** It is to the interest of workingmen, as well as capitalists, to see to it that an honest, straightforward city government is maintained; they are joined by the smaller tradesmen, taxpayers and employer, and it is to this end and with this point in view that this little souvenir has been prepared by the Business Men's League of Camden. The city's welfare is our welfare, and we must look to it that she continues to thrive. For three years we have had a chief executive and city government that we may be proud of. Mayor Hatch has been a man whose personality and individuality have lent dignity to his high office; he has striven to advance the city's interests and has succeeded; he has stood between foreign workmen and home labor, and Camden's men have taken the work; he has stood for the city against grasping corporations, and the latter have been worsted; he has conquered that miserable swindle known as policy-playing and has compelled the observance of the Sabbath. He has manfully and persistently looked after the interests of the city of Camden and has thereby protected every individual citizen. He has performed his work well. The Business Men's League have watched with a great deal of anxiety and regret the attacks which have been made against the city government, and therefore against the city's advancement, and take this means of proclaiming the truth.



VIEW OF PORTION OF NEW SHIPBUILDING PLANT, WHILE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

At the heads of their respective departments are Richard R. Miller, City Treasurer, and Harry F. Wolfe, Receiver of Taxes. During the two years these gentlemen have filled these positions they have handled the enormous sum of over Five Millions of Dollars, and yet every penny has been properly accounted for and not a breath of suspicion has been directed against them.

It is only fair; it is only right; it is only American that the truth be told, and we as business men believe that honest employees be let alone, and to this end urge sober-minded, intelligent, careful citizens to give them their deserved and well-earned support.

Respectfully submitted,

**Business Men's League**



CITY HALL AND THIRD REGIMENT ARMORY  
Showing Soldiers' Monument

