

NEW-ROCHELLE, N. Y., IS THE SEVENTH TOWN TO PRESENT HERE ITS CLAIMS FOR A COMMUTER'S HOME.

NEW-ROCHELLE CHARMS

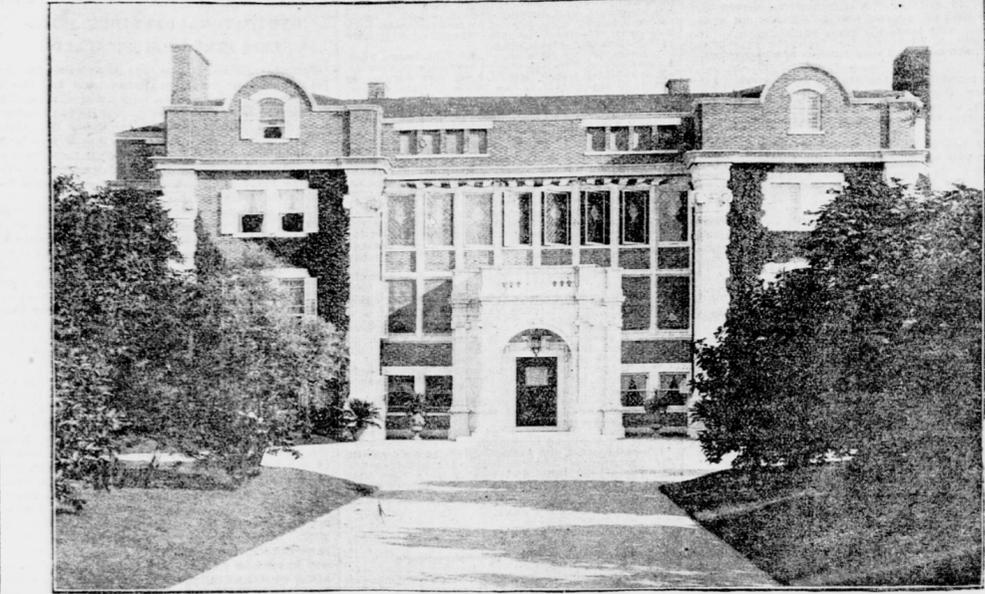
MAYOR CLARKE SETS FORTH  
THE ATTRACTIVE OF  
THIS SOUND CITY.

MANY OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE FEAT-  
URES OF THE METROPOLIS AT  
ITS DOORS—MOST CONVEN-  
IENT OF ACCESS.

To the Editor of the Tribune.  
Sir: I am glad that some one through your paper  
has raised the question, which is of such interest  
to so many people in the greater city of New-York:  
"What is the most attractive city or town for a  
New-York business man to make his home in?"  
because the discussion affords an opportunity to  
place before the public the superior advantages of  
New-Rochelle.

To those who, with the view of escaping the  
noises and confusion of the city, are looking for  
homes in the suburbs, I would say, by all means  
select a selection until you have seen what  
New-Rochelle has to offer. If you do you may  
make the same mistake that many others have  
made who have located elsewhere without having  
acquainted themselves with the advantages of  
being on the water, and are now compelled to come  
from other places when they wish to enjoy  
boating, bathing and the cooling breezes of Long  
Island Sound. The people who visit New-Rochelle  
on Sundays and holidays seeking these advantages  
and diversions number thousands, and most of  
them come from other towns which claim to rival  
New-Rochelle as a residence region. Our city is  
the only one I know of near New-York which has  
a public park of its own, and nowhere near New-  
York is there a city which is better situated or  
endowed with more natural beauty. It is the first  
station out of New-York on the New-Haven Rail-  
road main line that is situated on the water.

New-Rochelle has the advantage of being an old  
settlement, and its real estate values are well  
settled. It was founded in 1682 by the Huguenots,  
who fled during the religious persecutions from La  
Rochelle, in France. The memories of its founders  
are perpetuated in the names of several of the  
streets and by a monument erected in Hudson Park  
on a spot where the Huguenots are supposed to  
have landed. It is one of the cities of that famous  
old Revolutionary battle ground, Westchester  
County, and the conflict was waged all around it.  
There is a movement now under way by the city  
authorities to preserve the grave of Thomas Paine,  
the Revolutionary patriot and deist, which is  
marked by a monument on Paine's old farm in



ALLVIEW, HOME OF C. OLIVER ISELIN, NEW-ROCHELLE.

(Photograph by A. J. Rosch.)

has a handsome home on Harrison Island, and the  
Huguenot club. There is also the New-Rochelle  
Rowing Club, which has a well equipped clubhouse  
on Echo Bay and a large membership.

The city has a population of about 16,000 in the  
winter, which is swelled to 18,000 in the summer.  
It is almost entirely residential in character. The  
majority of the residents are New-York business  
men. They have handsome homes in the residential  
parks which go to make up the city, and the prop-  
erty is nicely kept. The lawns are closely mowed,  
and the walks are of flag or bluestone. New-  
Rochelle has a fine system of paved streets and  
sewers practically complete, which does away with  
the necessity of opening the streets and bringing  
about malarial conditions. The residence streets  
are finely macadamized and shaded by elms and  
maples, and are brilliantly illuminated at night by  
Welsbach gas lights and electricity.

The public schools and churches of New-Rochelle  
are as fine as can be found in any city of the coun-

known, owing to the great care Mr. Iselin takes of  
the plant and watershed.

The cost of living in New-Rochelle is on a par  
with that of any suburban town. Houses in the  
residence parts rent from \$35 to \$50 a month. The  
stores and markets carry excellent lines of goods.  
The city has paid for many of its improvements.  
An estimate of the taxes to be levied next year  
shows that the rate will not be over 2 per cent on  
the present assessed valuation. It is a significant  
fact that a person who spends one season in New-  
Rochelle invariably comes here again. Many of our  
property owners and permanent residents are made  
up of people who came here to spend the summer,  
and became so infatuated with the place that they  
have lived here ever since.

With ninety-two trains a day to and from the  
Grand Central Station and the One-hundred-and-  
twenty-ninth station of the Third-ave. elevated  
road over the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford  
Railroad, and the Union Electric Railway connect-  
ing with New-York City and adjoining towns, the  
city is well supplied with facilities for transporta-  
tion. The commutation rate is about 85¢ a year, or  
about a nickel a week. A charter has just been  
granted by the State Railroad Commissioners for a  
high speed third rail electric railroad, known as  
the New-York and Fort Chester Railroad, which, if  
the plans are carried out, will be running in 1904.  
The new company will run two hundred and fifty  
days between New-York City and New-Rochelle at  
greatly reduced rates of fare.

There is one extremely fine characteristic about  
the people of New-Rochelle. They are broad-  
minded and democratic. There is no narrow social  
limit to embarrass newcomers. The most cordial  
welcome awaits them at all of the clubs, societies  
and churches.

These, Mr. Editor, are a few of the advantages of  
New-Rochelle. A could enumerate many more if  
space would permit. The only drawback that the  
city has is that there are not enough houses to  
accommodate all of the people who want to live  
here. There is scarcely a vacant house in New-  
Rochelle at the present time, and new ones are gen-  
erally rented while they are being constructed. In  
the words of one of our prominent residents, "It  
is a pity that there is not a thing to own on  
a corner lot in the Garden of Eden is to have  
a home in New-Rochelle."

HENRY S. CLARKE, Mayor.  
New-Rochelle, N. Y., AUG. 9, 1902.

THE ERA OF THE SPRAGUES

HOW THEY ONCE RULED RHODE IS-  
LAND, FINANCIALLY, POLITICALLY  
AND SOCIALLY.

Providence, R. I., Aug. 9 (Special).—The death  
of Amasa Sprague serves to recall to many people  
of Rhode Island one of the most remarkable  
periods in the financial and political history of  
the State. The rise of the great manufacturing  
house of A. W. Sprague to the summit of finan-  
cial greatness which it reached, was in the days  
in which it flourished, a phenomenon. Its fall was  
much more than a disaster; it was a financial  
cataclysm. The story of the rise and fall of this  
great house is the tale of much more than a  
great episode in the history of Rhode Island;  
it is the story of an epoch. Its story begins with  
the early years of the last century, when two  
brothers, Amasa and William Sprague, began to  
attract the notice of the business world by their  
success in the manufacture of cotton. It was then  
that the original firm of A. W. Sprague was  
formed. The elder of the brothers, Amasa Sprague,  
was murdered in the town of Cranston, where  
he lived, and where some of his most important  
interests were centered. It was believed that the  
liquor interests were responsible for his death.  
Mr. Sprague having been an ardent advocate of  
the prohibition of the sale of spirituous liquors in  
the town. His supposed murderer was tried, con-  
victed and hanged, being the last victim of the  
laws which Rhode Island knew. After the ex-  
ecution the belief became general that the man  
in question had been, although perhaps cognizant  
of the crime, was not the actual murderer. The re-  
sult was the abolition of capital punishment in  
the State and the substitution of the punishment  
of life imprisonment for capital offences, a law  
which is still in force.

The death of Amasa Sprague and that of his  
brother, William, threw upon their sons the bur-  
den of the business responsibilities, already be-  
come great. The elder brother left two sons,  
William and Amasa; the younger, one, Byron.  
For some years the three Spragues remained  
business partners, continuing the original firm  
having acquired a competence, withdrew from the  
firm, which about this time became incorporated  
as the A. W. Sprague Manufacturing Company.  
The withdrawal of Byron Sprague was followed  
by the great era of expansion in the history of  
the house of Sprague. Its original, and, it may be  
said, legitimate, business was that of the manu-  
facture of cotton cloths, to which had been added  
that of the manufacture of prints, at the great  
establishment of the Cranston Print Works. The  
mills of the company were situated at the village  
of Natick, Arctic and Quiddick in Rhode Island;  
Baltic, in Connecticut, with interests also at Ken-  
nebunk, Me. In pursuit for financial power, the  
Spragues now began to throw out many collateral  
branches. Iron interests attracted their attention,  
and one by one the Rhode Island Horse Shoe Com-  
pany, the Sprague Mowing Machine Company and  
the Point Street Iron Works were either added  
to their holdings or originally established by them.

Next they turned their attention to transporta-  
tion interests, and the Providence and New-York  
Steamship Company, formerly known as the Nep-  
tune, was added to their properties. Then  
the street railway franchises of Providence and  
outlying towns fell into their hands, and not only  
did the jingling horsecars of the city proclaim  
the power of the Spragues, but horsecars were  
frequently seen in the streets, conveying the output  
of the print works of the Spragues at Cranston  
to the wharf of the New-York steamers, in which  
the Spragues owned a controlling interest. How  
you ask, could this be, that a private corporation  
should be allowed to transport freight over street-  
car lines through the streets of Providence? Some  
may be uncharitable enough to say that the fact  
that the brother-in-law of the Spragues was for  
all these years the Mayor of the city had some-  
thing to do with it. But those who recall the  
financial and political power of the great house  
of Sprague at this time will remember that few

could have been found so foolishly as to venture  
to oppose anything which the Spragues might de-  
sire to do.

For the Spragues had now become, in the highest  
sense, a political power. The opening year of  
the War of the Rebellion found William Sprague  
the Governor of Rhode Island, and as "the famous  
War Governor" he is known to-day. With what  
laudation did the report go forth, when President  
Lincoln called for volunteers to suppress rebellion,  
that the 1st Rhode Island Regiment and a battery  
of artillery had been fitted out and sent to the  
front by his own private means. It mattered  
little that such a sacrifice upon his part was un-  
necessary, and that the credit of the State of  
Rhode Island was excellent. It was many years  
before people learned the real truth. And when  
there was a vacancy in one of the Rhode Island  
chairs in the United States Senate, what name of  
all in the State suggested itself to all minds for  
the position but that of William Sprague?

The career of William Sprague in the Senate is  
well remembered by the political world of a gen-  
eration ago. As to the political power of the house  
of Sprague at home, there was one peculiar fea-  
ture. William Sprague was at this time the leader  
and dictator of the Republican party in the State.  
Amasa, his brother, was the leader of the Demo-  
cracy. The slates of both parties were all made  
up in the private office of the Spragues, and there  
was never the slightest difficulty in carrying  
through the legislature all the charters and other  
legislation which was necessary for the proper  
administration of the house of Sprague. Not only  
was the political complexion, but the actual per-  
sonnel of the legislature, arranged at the office  
of the Spragues. The political power of the house  
was far reaching, and in every town and hamlet  
in the State were to be found its political em-  
bassies, who guided the people as carefully as  
error was impossible. The arrangements of the  
Spragues never miscarried, and a nomination to  
office made in the famous room in Exchange Place  
was always equivalent to an election. In those  
days the two great political parties in the State  
required no headquarters for their State com-  
mittees.

All this great machinery, both financial and po-  
litical, required funds. The capital, original and  
acquired, of the house of Sprague, it is true, was  
immense. It reached into the millions. But the  
interests of the Spragues were also immense, and  
they were constantly increasing in numbers and  
importance. Almost any newly patented article  
which enterprising promoters were shown ready  
to bring to the notice received their attention.  
An example of this was the Rhode Island Frear  
Stone Company, an enterprise for the manufacture



HENRY S. CLARKE,  
Mayor of New-Rochelle.  
(Photograph by A. J. Rosch.)

of artificial sandstone, in which the Spragues are  
said to have embarked.

All this, it has already been said, required funds.  
It is notoriously easier to get one's notes dis-  
counted if one is himself an influential director  
of a bank than if he has no friend at all in the  
management. Why, then, should not the Spragues  
be their own bankers? To think was to act; and,  
under the then newly passed national banking  
law, the First National Bank was chartered, with  
Amasa Sprague as its president. The organiza-  
tion of the Second National Bank, with William  
Sprague as its president, soon followed. Then the  
Globe National Bank, an already existing insti-  
tution, passed into the control of the Sprague  
interests so that now three powerful banking  
institutions were controlled by them. But this  
was not sufficient for their purposes. The First  
National occupied palatial quarters on the street  
floor of a fine building at Westminster and Ex-  
change sts., one of the most prominent sites in  
the city of Providence. Soon the Cranston build-  
ing Bank was chartered, and was assigned to  
quarters in the banking rooms of the First Na-  
tional. To be sure, the business of the two insti-  
tutions was not transacted over the same counter;  
but the situation of the savings bank was very  
convenient for the public. It was convenient also  
for the managers of the savings institution, who  
found no difficulty in leading all their funds to the  
directors of the First National.

The banking rooms of the Globe National Bank  
were also conveniently situated with reference to  
another institution for savings, the doors of the  
two institutions being directly opposite each other,  
a narrow hallway of the Franklin Lyceum build-  
ing alone separating them. The managers of this  
institution also found no difficulty in the invest-  
ment of its funds, a condition which its depositors,  
a few years later, had cause bitterly to bewail.

Amasa Sprague was now in the zenith of his  
prosperity and power. He was not only a power  
to the world of business and politics in his State,  
but socially he had wonderful strength. Every one  
sought his acquaintance, and his friends were num-  
bered by the score and hundred. He was uni-  
versally spoken of in Providence as "Amasa,"  
the surname being regarded as superfluous. He  
was a great lover of horseflesh and a noted patron  
of the turf. In the town of Cranston, about four  
miles from Providence, upon his own land, he  
built, at his sole expense, the far famed Narragan-  
sett Park, in its day the best appointed race-  
track and fair ground in the whole country. Here  
some of the most noted races of a generation ago  
were trotted. The most famous of these, perhaps,  
was that when American Girl made her great  
record, beating Dexter's best time of 2:14.  
Amasa Sprague's own stables were filled with the  
best trotting stock, and there were few, in slight-  
ing time, who cared to try conclusions with him  
upon the old "Pauntuxet" pike.

Horseracing was also prominent in the business  
affairs of the Spragues. There are many in Provi-  
dence who will remember the two saving  
string teams which were the chief glory of the  
business stables of the Spragues. There was no  
finer sight than that of the great freight wagon  
of the Spragues, piled high with merchandise  
ready for shipment, passing through the city  
streets toward the wharves. It was drawn by six  
magnificent, powerful grays, harnessed tandem,  
and without the vestige of reins, controlled solely  
by the magic of the driver's voice, down through  
the narrow streets of the city would come the

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An example of this was the Rhode Island Frear  
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"gray string team," proudly stepping, and there  
was no prouder man in all the world than was the  
man who ruled them.

The financial arrangements of the Spragues  
were now in excellent working order. How hands-  
ome they were, a beautiful special engraved form  
being issued. Large amounts of financial paper  
were issued, but the market absorbed it all.  
Were there not three national banks, with all their  
immense resources? And then the two savings  
banks contributed large amounts to the funds  
from which to draw. Once a month a notice  
would be posted in the window of the Cranston  
Savings Bank that the bank would keep open in  
the evening for the few following days for the  
accommodation of depositors. It was, indeed, a  
great accommodation. It was pay day at the  
Cranston Print Works, and the notes of the  
Spragues, and perhaps being discounted at their  
national banks, to raise funds to meet the pay-  
roll. The national banks always found it con-  
venient to make loans, for this and other purposes,  
from the savings banks under their control. Fri-  
day was always enjoyed upon the operatives in the  
Sprague concerns. And so a notice on pay-  
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ston Savings Bank would be open for several even-  
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to deposit their surplus earnings. The horse cars,  
owned and operated by the Spragues, ran with  
convenient frequency from the print works to the  
city, and directly past the door of the Cranston  
Savings Bank. The savings bank lent its funds  
to the national bank; the national bank lent them  
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first deducting the amounts due by each at the  
corporation stores, the help paid to Providence and  
return, and deposited their earnings back in the  
savings bank, and thousands of dollars of their  
people thus invested were invested perman-  
ently.

This could not go on forever. Many of the  
ventures in which the Spragues embarked proved  
fruitless. Business declined, and despite the mag-  
nificent plans of the brothers they began to find  
that their prosperity was waning. Sprague paper  
began, little by little, to command a lower price  
in the market. Then whispers began to go about  
that the Spragues were embarrassed. These whis-  
pers now became open gossip upon the street  
corners, and finally the announcement was

made that the business depression which overspread the  
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Le Boutillier Brothers  
HOUSEKEEPING  
LINENS.

Comprising many lots of fine  
Damask Table Cloths and Napkins,  
Towels, Sheets and Pillow Cases,  
Hemstitched and Embroidered Linens,  
at  
GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

N. B.—William Liddell's Gold  
Medal Brand Irish Table Linens, are  
included in this sale. The great su-  
periority and durability of these  
Linens are due to the fact that they  
are grass bleached, in the old-fashioned  
way, by the agency of the rays of  
the sun, instead of by the use of in-  
jurious chemicals, which insures the  
retention of all their natural strength  
and beauty of appearance.

Le Boutillier Brothers  
West 23rd Street.

authoritatively made in the newspapers. The  
crash had come, and the house of Sprague, which  
occurred in 1873, not only brought disaster to the  
various manufacturing enterprises, with their  
thousands of employes, in which it was engaged,  
but had the effect of seriously weakening the  
foundations of the three national banks controlled  
by the Spragues. The two savings banks promptly  
closed their doors and never opened them again.  
The foundations of the three national banks controlled  
by the Spragues, were in imminent, and to avert  
such a financial disaster a public meeting was  
held in the city of Providence, and representatives  
of the banking and prominent business interests,  
to devise means to avert such a calamity. It was  
a dark day for Providence, for all Rhode  
Island. Plans were laid by which the failure of  
the banks was averted, but the house of Sprague  
passed into the hands of a trustee and its property  
has never returned to the hands of its former  
owners.

It was confidently hoped that by the disposal  
of the interests which might be regarded as in-  
cumbrances, and the confining of the house to its  
legitimate business of cotton manufacturing, it  
might be enabled to resume active operations.



ST. GABRIEL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEW-ROCHELLE.  
(Photograph by A. J. Rosch.)

North-st., this city, by moving the monument to a  
new site, which, we have been informed, one of our  
citizens is willing to give for that purpose.

No city could be more fortunate in its surround-  
ings than New-Rochelle. A short distance away  
the city of New-York has just spent millions of  
dollars laying out Pelham Bay Park and Bronx  
Park, the latter with its Zoological and Botanical  
gardens. New-Rochelle has all of the advantages  
of these magnificent parks without extra taxation,  
and it has the use of the magnificent boulevards  
which New-York has just built at an expense of  
hundreds of thousands of dollars, and which will  
soon connect Long Island Sound with the Hudson  
River. Besides these, we have Glen Island, one  
of the largest and best summer resorts in the  
United States, representing an expenditure of sev-  
eral millions of dollars, and our own beautiful Echo  
and Neptune bays, which are acknowledged to be  
the prettiest and safest havens for yachts along  
the entire length of Long Island Sound. New-  
Rochelle is famous throughout the United States  
and Europe as the home of the two great racing  
yachts, the Defender and the Columbia, which have  
kept the International Cup on this side of the  
water, their owner, C. Oliver Iselin, being a resi-  
dent of this city. The city has two prosperous  
yacht clubs—the New-Rochelle Yacht Club, which



TYPE OF NEW-ROCHELLE HOUSE WHICH RENTS FOR \$36 A MONTH AND  
CAN BE BOUGHT FOR \$5,000.

rent rooms and bath. Five minutes from railway station; eight from Sound. Lot 16x46 feet.



ST. JOHN'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NEW-ROCHELLE.  
(Photograph by A. J. Rosch.)



ST. GABRIEL'S SCHOOL, NEW-ROCHELLE.  
(Photograph by A. J. Rosch.)

But the business depression which overspread the  
country during the years from 1874 to 1878 in  
which the financial arrangements of the Spragues  
were now in excellent working order. How hands-  
ome they were, a beautiful special engraved form  
being issued. Large amounts of financial paper  
were issued, but the market absorbed it all.  
Were there not three national banks, with all their  
immense resources? And then the two savings  
banks contributed large amounts to the funds  
from which to draw. Once a month a notice  
would be posted in the window of the Cranston  
Savings Bank that the bank would keep open in  
the evening for the few following days for the  
accommodation of depositors. It was, indeed, a  
great accommodation. It was pay day at the  
Cranston Print Works, and the notes of the  
Spragues, and perhaps being discounted at their  
national banks, to raise funds to meet the pay-  
roll. The national banks always found it con-  
venient to make loans, for this and other purposes,  
from the savings banks under their control. Fri-  
day was always enjoyed upon the operatives in the  
Sprague concerns. And so a notice on pay-  
day would be posted in the mills, that the Cran-  
ston Savings Bank would be open for several even-  
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to deposit their surplus earnings. The horse cars,  
owned and operated by the Spragues, ran with  
convenient frequency from the print works to the  
city, and directly past the door of the Cranston  
Savings Bank. The savings bank lent its funds  
to the national bank; the national bank lent them  
to the Spragues. The Spragues paid off their bills,  
first deducting the amounts due by each at the  
corporation stores, the help paid to Providence and  
return, and deposited their earnings back in the  
savings bank, and thousands of dollars of their  
people thus invested were invested perman-  
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