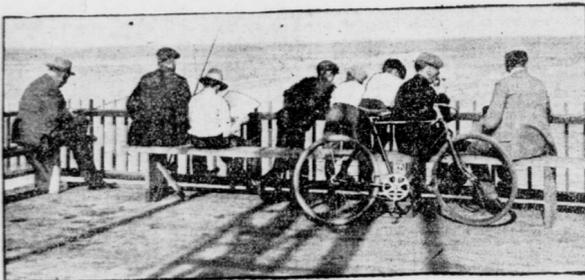


Charms of the Jersey Coast.

Resorts Spending Thousands in Preparing for a Rush of Vacation Seekers.



ON THE ASBURY PARK FISHING PIER. (Photograph by Wilcox.)

READY AT ASBURY PARK

Season Expected to Overshadow Its Thirty-five Predecessors.

Asbury Park, N. J., May 27 (Special).—Unless all signs fail, Asbury Park, the seaside resort James A. Bradley fashioned out of sand dunes and scrub oaks, is entering on the most successful "season" it has experienced in its thirty-five years' existence. This optimistic declaration is based on reports from real estate agents and hotel keepers. The former announce that the demand for high-class cottages this year is unprecedented and that but very few modern homes are now left to be leased.

The hotel men declare that the inquiries for quarters and the actual bookings are far ahead of any previous year. This would indicate that, notwithstanding the fact that the town Mr. Bradley built is conducted on prohibition lines, the crowds are coming as never before. In fact, the resort is already alive with cottagers and hotel guests. To-day's arrivals—the advance guard of the Memorial Day army of tourists—were numerous enough to cause even the hardened railroad employes to predict that Asbury Park would not be able to care for the July and August crowds.

Several of the hotels near the beach opened for the season to-day. The Hotel Brunswick, conducted by Alonzo R. Parsons, received nearly one hundred guests, a May record for the hotel.

The usual preparations have been made by the city officials for the comfort and entertainment of the visitors. In the first place the thirty-five miles of graded and gravelled streets have been thoroughly overhauled and are now in excellent condition for driving, wheeling and automobilism. Every day several hundred motor cars speed over the level thoroughfares within the city limits, while the model back roads leading to Spring Lake on the south and Long Branch and the Rumson road on the north are alive with all sorts of modern vehicles. For those who do not own a motor car or speedy horses a trolley ride to Spring Lake, Como, Villa Park and Sea Girl can be enjoyed this summer, the road having been extended to those points south of Asbury Park.

On the beach front but little work has thus far been done in the way of improvements, for a fortune was expended last year by the city in building a new boardwalk and two of the handsomest casinos on the Atlantic coast. The taxpayers, not content with that outlay, voted this spring to spend another quarter of a million in extending the beach promenade northward to Deal Lake, for the accommodation of the cottagers from Allenhurst, Deal Beach and Loch Arbour; for additional jetties to protect the beach from the winter storms and for another group of bath houses at 8th-ave.

The reorganized Beach Commission has approved the plans for these improvements, and the work is now under way and will be finished before the rush is here. Nearly three thousand additional electric lights are to be put in the buildings along the boardwalk and a filter is to be put in at Asbury-ave. to clarify the water to be taken from Wesley Lake for use in the lavatories.

It looked at one time as if a down to date steel amusement pier would be built adjacent to the boardwalk near 8th-ave. The concession was awarded and the elaborate plans for the structure, which was to contain a theatre, concert hall and other attractions, were approved by the city officials, but no serious attempt has been made to begin work on the structure, which was to extend seaward nearly one thousand feet and was to be thrown open to the amusement loving public by the middle of July. The failure of the promoter to build the pier on time will compel the Beach Commissioners to convert the Asbury-ave. Casino, at least a portion of it, into a theatre. A number of theatrical entertainments were given in that building last summer, but the acoustics are bad and the stage is not suited for the spectacular attractions. These defects will be remedied at once—unless in the meantime the pier project is revived.

Arthur Pryor's American band has been re-engaged to give daily concerts on the beach during July and August. The organization was here for three months last year and gave general satisfaction. Besides it was a source of revenue to the Beach Commissioners. For the entertainment of the Memorial Day visitors the commissioners will furnish a vaudeville entertainment and an orchestra will be engaged for the month of June to give free concerts in the Casino.

Beginning June 7 and continuing daily for a week, the annual Synod of the Reformed Church of America will convene in the Beach Auditorium. This body of churchmen has been meeting here annually for fourteen years. During the first week in July the annual meeting of the National Educational Association will be held in Asbury Park when it is predicted by President Maxwell that the city will be called upon to care for at least thirty thousand members of the association. An incorporated committee is working day and night perfecting the plan of assigning the various State delegations and arranging the details of the carnival which is to be given on Wesley Lake in honor of the pedagogues. On Wednesday, June 8, the National Hotel Men's Mutual Benefit Association will come to Asbury Park from Atlantic City for a day's outing. The visitors will be entertained by the local bouffants, who will take them on a trolley trip to the neighboring resorts and finish the programme with a clam bake served at the Coleman House.

View and the Bristol. The houses now open are the Hotel Brunswick, Hotel Marlborough, Grand Avenue, Tenney, Minot House, Westminster, Kings Court, Buckingham, St. James, St. Laurent, Asbury Inn, Ravenswood Inn, La Touraine, Brighton, Grand Central, Madison and Ward Villa. Others will open earlier than in former years, but many of the larger houses near the beach will remain closed until the middle of June.

President Roosevelt has promised to come to Asbury Park and Ocean Grove on Friday, July 7. According to the programme, he is to deliver an address in the Ocean Grove Auditorium before the visiting school teachers. Governor Stokes of New Jersey, who has engaged a cottage in Ocean Grove for the summer, will provide a fitting military escort for the Chief Executive and the Ocean Grove McKinley and Roosevelt Club will entertain him while in that resort. Announcement is also made that an effort will be made to have William Jennings Bryan deliver a lecture in Ocean Grove this summer.

The bathing season will be formally opened

largest hostelry here, will be succeeded by his two sons, who are experienced hotel men and who have been identified with the hotel for years. They are making many changes preparatory to the opening. The Peninsula, the Seabright Inn and Pannard's will be found catering to a select class of people when the summer opens.

Among the cottagers who are already at Seabright are Mrs. G. Neeser, S. F. Auchincloss, A. B. Cummings, J. M. Cornell, Thomas N. McCarter, Uzal H. McCarter, Mrs. L. W. Nathan, F. W. Menzies and George H. Holmes.

Next week will mark the arrival of a large colony of cottagers who make it a rule to be at their summer homes by June 1.

Monmouth Beach will be as popular as ever this season. The famous ocean boulevard will be lighted by Welsbach lights. For many years Monmouth Beach has been governed by the township committee of Ocean, with headquarters in Long Branch. This season the resort will have a representative in the committee and Long Branch officials will no longer say what improvements the place shall have. A week ago the new Board of Commissioners was organized, the old officials being ineligible to serve owing to the adoption of the new city charter at Long Branch. Jesse P. Manahan is Monmouth's representative in the committee, and already he has secured lights and is now improving streets which have been neglected for years.

As usual the Country Club will be the scene of many gatherings of the cottagers and their friends. The club will open the first week in June, and the usual interesting musical programmes which have characterized the place will again be popular.

Among the cottagers who will spend the summer at Monmouth will be Colonel William Barbour, Arthur B. Froat, William M. Whitney, Brent Good, Oliver Hyson, Louis James, Thomas B. Nash, Ernest Broesbeck, George F. Baker, William C. Reick and William H. Walsh.

Richard A. Mills, of St. Louis, vice-president of the Bank of America, will summer at Seabright. He has leased the Columbia cottage of James R. Minugh on the Rumson road.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Simmons, of New York, are at their Elmhurst Park home for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Duncan, of New York, are at Seabright for the season. They are occupying their cottage on Rumson neck.

Mrs. H. L. Roosevelt, of New York, is occupying her cottage at Seabright.

LONG BRANCH OPENING.

Efforts to Restore This Resort to Former Glory.

Long Branch, N. J., May 27 (Special).—Never in the history of this resort, the oldest along the Jersey Coast, have the residents looked forward with greater expectations for the future than at the present time. There is apparently everything to encourage, as it is the intention of the newly organized Beach and Park Commission and City Council to push to completion at the earliest possible moment the improvements outlined prior to the ratification of the \$400,000 bond issue by the voters last November.

The Beach and Park Commission was organized a month ago by the election of Mayor C. Asa Francis president and Harry T. Blodge secretary. The latter has resigned and will be succeeded by Councilman James Dunn of West End. The commission has six members, one from each ward, and is non-partisan. Mayor Francis and President of City Council George W. Baxter are ex-officio members.

The new commission has lost no time since its organization in getting to work. It expects to continue busy until the prestige that Long Branch once enjoyed is restored. It believes this can be accomplished by making improvements of a permanent character, such as the erection of casinos and convention halls, the widening of the avenue and the erection of a board walk, which are numbered among the improvements that it expects to carry out.

The first real step toward improvements along the ocean front was made when the City Council by a unanimous vote decided to get control of the two mile beach front by instituting condemnation proceedings. The next was the purchase of the Ocean Hotel property, with a frontage of 750 feet in Ocean-ave., at a cost of \$72,000.

Many influential residents have deeded their property to the city, among them being Colonel David S. Brown, Arthur H. Hearn, J. S. McCurrugh, the late L. J. Phillips, Ludwig Bauman, Mr. Huyler and Mr. Sonneborn. About one mile of beach front is now in sight, although the line is not continuous. There is every reason to believe that at least seventy-five per cent of the ocean front can be acquired by the city without resorting to condemnation proceedings.

The improvements include the widening of the Ocean Drive to a uniform width of sixty feet, the erection of a twenty or twenty-five foot walk on the east side of the avenue and an eight foot walk on the west side. The erection of a casino, one that will compare with the best along the coast, will be started just as soon as title to the Ocean Hotel property is acquired. The date selected by the city to take title to the Ocean Hotel property is June 12.

Mayor C. Asa Francis, who is also president of the Beach and Park Commission, when asked to-day as to the ocean front improvements made this statement:

The Mayor and Council will put forth every effort to acquire title to the beach front within a short time, so that the work of improvement can be started. We mean business, etc., as outlined in the proposed improvements presented to the members of the Ninth Regiment, N. G. of N. Y., in the summer of 1870, by Jim Flisk.

In regard to a casino site, in which there has been a diversity of opinion, Mayor Francis says that the Beach Commission will certainly recommend its erection on the west side of the avenue somewhere near the centre of the present Ocean Hotel. The old hostelry, which is one of the landmarks in Long Branch, will be razed to the ground next month. The hotel was originally the Neptune House, later the National and in 1866 the Continental.

The Continental became well known in the sixties. When the hostelry was changed to the Ocean Hotel it still retained its prestige, and during the days when the Lelands managed it the place was considered the queen of all resort hotels. A memorable event, one that will live in history, was the complimentary military ball given to the members of the Ninth Regiment, N. G. of N. Y., in the summer of 1870, by Jim Flisk.

Mayor Francis assured a Tribune correspond-



BATHING AT ASBURY PARK. (Photograph by Wilcox.)

next month, although every one finds a dozen or more bathers in the chilly sea. The spring tides left the beach in excellent condition for bathing. It is proposed to build a modern hot and cold sea water bathing establishment adjacent to the boardwalk, but it is hardly probable that the plan will be ready for patronage this summer.

Over in Ocean Grove the Association controlling the affairs of that semi-religious resort have had a force of men at work for several months regrading and graveling all the streets. The work will be finished next month. Tents are going up daily near the Auditorium and cottagers are arriving by every train. The annual opening is announced for Saturday evening, June 24, when Musical Director Morgan will give a concert. The official religious and musical programme has not yet been made public.

It is known, however, that the initial sermon will be preached Sunday morning, June 25, by Bishop James Mallaleu, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On Sunday, July 2, the preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, of Brooklyn, and the Rev. Dr. Russell Conwell, of Philadelphia. Bishop James N. Fitzgerald, of St. Louis, president of the Camp Meeting Association, will, as usual, preside at the meetings held in the Auditorium. The Rev. Charles H. Yatman, the well-known evangelist, will again have charge of the popular Young People's meetings, held every morning during the season in the Temple. Mme. Schumann-Heink has been engaged by Musical Director Morgan for a concert, and efforts will be made to obtain Madame Melba and Madame Nordica. In addition to these special musical features, several of the standard oratorios will be rendered in July and August.

CHANGES AT SEABRIGHT.

Many Improvements Seen Along the Rumson Road.

Seabright, N. J., May 27 (Special).—Picturesque Rumson, Seabright and Monmouth Beach, which are almost inseparable, are just now among the notable beauty spots along the Jersey coast. The cottagers are arriving daily, and in a few weeks at the longest there will not be a vacant house of any note between the Rumson Drive and Monmouth Beach.

The work of improving the Seabright and Highland Drive, which has become popular since the tollroad nuisance was done away with, is well under way. P. Hall Packer, the new freeholder, who lives here, has the work in hand, and expects to put the two-mile stretch in better condition than ever before. An effort will be made to change the line of the drive between the borough line and Normandie to the west side of the railroad tracks, in order to get rid of two bad crossings.

Many noticeable improvements have been made at Seabright since the close of the last season. New cottages have been built, others have been altered, while unimproved land has been made beautiful in many instances. The most noticeable change has been made to the summer home on the Rumson of Jacob H. Schiff. Mr. Schiff has spent nearly \$75,000 in improving his country home. He really has erected a new mansion, as hardly a vestige of the once pretty Schiff villa is left. The new Schiff villa is now conceded to be one of the prettiest summer homes on the Rumson Road. The landscape gardening will be a feature, while the palace in white will be the admiration of thousands this summer.

Thomas M. McCarter, of Newark, who recently bought the Edward Kemp tract at Rumson, is likely to be held up in getting possession, owing to complications which have arisen in the estate. It is Mr. McCarter's intention to erect a permanent home in Monmouth County that will be complete in every detail. He is already here enjoying the bracing air.

The Seabright hotels are being put in order for the June opening. George M. Sandt, who retired from the management of the Octagon, the

Mrs. John J. Knox, of New-York, is at Seabright for the summer.

C. H. Ellingwood and family are spending the summer at their Seabright cottage.

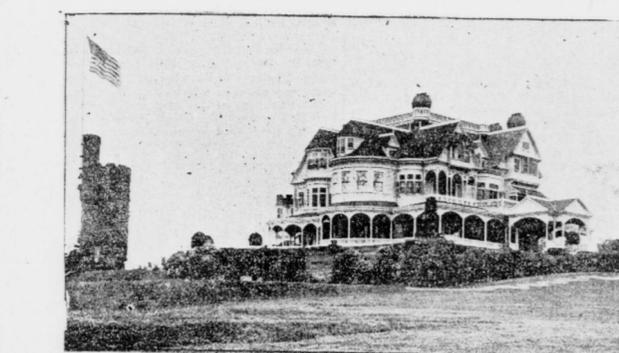
C. W. Baylis and H. T. Kneeland have taken possession of their country home in Seabright.

Herman S. Bergen, of New-York, is occupying one of the Byron cottages at Monmouth Beach.

Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Kimball, of New-York, were among the arrivals at Seabright this week.

AT OLD POINT COMFORT.

Old Point Comfort, Va., May 27 (Special).—Old Point Comfort and the Chamberlin Hotel for all convention purposes are ideal. The attractions are not at such magnificent distances as to keep the delegates scattered, and so fail to bring them together at the sessions. Indeed, within the Chamberlin are diversions to satisfy the most exacting.



CASTLE WALL.

Country place of Myron H. Oppenheim at Long Branch, occupied by Isaac Untermeyer, of New-York.

while the committee and the convention rooms are so arranged that there is not the perpetual motion for adjournment before the house. The location is at once inviting and alluring, with a sort of special attachment for work and for play. The attractions are in abundance, past, present and future. Through the approaching tercentennial of the permanent English settlement in America there is manifest a general desire to become better acquainted with the overlooked history of the early days of this country. A day on the warring island at Jamestown, where the landing was made, and where every division institution of the nation was instituted, more than a dozen years before the landing of the Pilgrims, is one of the delightfully easy possibilities of a stay at Old Point Comfort. In the grand naval pageant, which will be a part of the anniversary celebration, the nations of the world are now in Hampton Roads. Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans and Mrs. Evans hold nightly receptions in the rotunda of the Chamberlin. The captains of the Maine, the Missouri, the Kearsarge and the Kentucky, and the members of their families also attend.

Among the New-York arrivals are General N. T. McMahon, Major Moses Harris, D. C. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Foster, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Davis, Charles C. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hatsted, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. M. Kestcher, Mr. and Mrs. W. Tobias, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Bleyer, Mrs. F. S. Weston, Miss Middlebrook, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Kilian, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Hamilton, W. J. Scott, J. W. Terry, W. H. MacKellar, H. O. Horton, J. B. Weeks, Miss H. A. Terry, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Monroe, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Schwartz, Mrs. and Mrs. L. Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. L. Hart and Mr. and Mrs. William Gordon.

ent to-day that the casino would be built on the west side, so as to give the visitors an unobstructed view of the ocean from West End to Sea View-ave. When asked as to the disposition of the Ocean Clubhouse, once the scene of beauty and splendor, both within and without, the Mayor believes that it can be utilized to good advantage.

"Rest assured," said the Mayor, "every effort will be made to keep the grand old ocean in view all the time. That's the reason why we favor the erection of a casino on the west side. We expect to make the casino so attractive and beautiful that it will prove as great an attraction as either the widened boulevard or board walk. The old buildings that now deface the avenue will have to go. There must be nothing to obstruct the visitor's view from one end of the proposed improvement to the other."

Along with the ocean front improvements comes the announcement of a modern hotel on the site of the present West End Hotel. The work of tearing down the old hostelry will begin just as soon as the season is over. It is proposed to spend \$500,000 on a new fire proof hotel, which will be modelled after the Chalfont Hotel at Atlantic City.

The West End this season will be managed by George R. Jones, of Cairo, N. Y. The cottages will open early in June and the big hotel about June 20.

One of the most noticeable hotel improvements along the ocean front is the rebuilding of the Hotel Pannard. The hostelry has been improved at the cost of many thousands of dollars and reopened as an all year round resort early in April. It has been liberally patronized from the day it opened.

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CRINOLINE AND THE APARTMENT HOUSE Wouldn't it be funny if the coming of the crinoline should work a change in our building laws? or, at least, in the fashion of dwelling places? Whatever condition it brings about, however, will be of short duration we can easily see, knowing the whimsical way Dame Fashion has of changing her mind, so we can afford to discuss the hoop-skirt and its influences without getting too serious. And we should like to know how wearers of ballooning skirts can expect to find themselves accommodated in quarters where they were crowded almost to suffocation clad in their sheathlike raiment. Will flat dwellers desert for suburbia and furniture manufacturers have worked day and night for years to produce furniture that would make living in flats less like a problem than it has at the present, and the results have been happy in many cases. Apartments that expand with collapse at their owner's will have worked miracles. There has really become a joy. And now the crinoline comes, or says it is coming, and unless that joy may be early realized with us it is to be feared that life while it remains with us is to be lived for the most part in a state of discomfort.

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