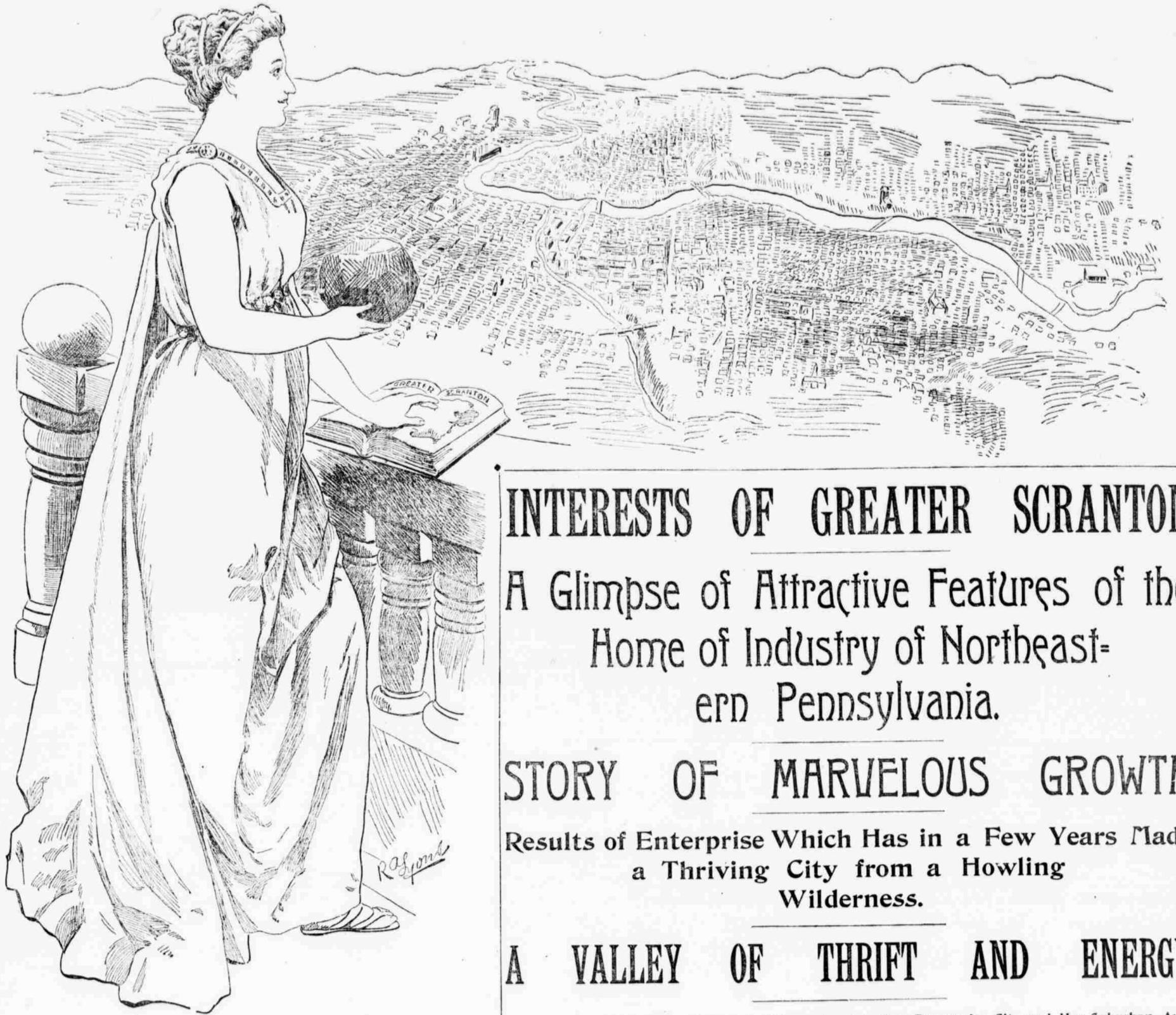


SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 27, 1897.



INTERESTS OF GREATER SCRANTON

A Glimpse of Attractive Features of the Home of Industry of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

STORY OF MARVELOUS GROWTH

Results of Enterprise Which Has in a Few Years Made a Thriving City from a Howling Wilderness.

A VALLEY OF THRIFT AND ENERGY

History of the Settlement and Growth of Pennsylvania's Most Progressive City and Her Suburban Auxiliaries--A Glance at the Anthracite Coal Industry, the Railroad Facilities, Educational Interests, City Government, Parks, Water Works, Manufacturing Enterprises, Real Estate and Building, Etc.

POSITIVE FACTS ABOUT SCRANTON.

SCRANTON

- Is the Third City of the Keystone State.
- Is a Great Convention City.
- Has a handsome City and County Hall which cost \$1,000,000.
- Has a new Postoffice.
- Area of City, 12,200 acres.
- Population over 100,000.
- Has Three Theatres, many Public Halls, Forty Public Schools, Seventy Churches.
- Has Twenty Hotels.
- Has Three Hospitals and Infirmarys and Two Asylums.
- Has an inexhaustible Pure Water Supply, daily capacity 35,000,000 gallons.
- Has possession of unlimited Electric Power.
- Has a Board of Trade Building which cost \$250,000.00.
- Has 150 Manufactories and 30,000 Operatives.
- Has 200 Acres of Park.
- Has Eighty Miles of Electric Street Railways.
- Has One Hundred Miles Railway Tracks, Seven Lines.
- Has Twenty Miles of Asphalted Streets.
- Has Two State Armories.
- Has Trolley Lines to Peckville, Olyphant, Throop, Taylor, Pittston.
- Streets Lighted with Electricity.
- Has the Cheapest Coal in the World.
- Is the Most Healthful Large City in the United States.
- Has Three Flour Mills.
- Has the Largest Coal Supply in the World.
- Has Three National Banks; capital \$650,000, surplus \$1,105,000.
- Has Five Savings Banks; capital \$530,000, surplus \$270,000.
- Has One Trust Company; capital \$250,000; surplus \$90,000.
- Has Two Free and Several Other Libraries, Colleges and Clubs, a Historical Society, a Masonic Temple and Society of Natural Sciences.
- Coal Shipments in 1896, 20,000,000 tons.
- Assessed Property Valuation, \$20,000,000.
- Has an Estimated Real Property Valuation of \$100,000,000.

WHILE not legally recognized by the courts, there is now no longer a question that "Greater Scranton" is a thing of reality. It is largely due to enterprising neighbors that the "Electric City" is known to the world as the home of progress and enterprise. It is largely due to the thrift and industry of the hustling little villages herabouts who have stood shoulder to shoulder with Scranton in the furthering of institutions that make a community prosperous, that we are today envied among the cities of the earth. The chain of wide-awake boroughs which reaches from Carbondale to Moosic may in truth be designated as "Greater Scranton." From a commercial standpoint they are as much a part of "Greater Scranton" as though joined together in a single municipality. No official map shows the outlines of this great business center of Northern Pennsylvania, but in social and business intercourse Scranton and her enterprising neighbors are united as one family. Their interests are in common, and the success of one means profit and prestige for all. Scranton and the towns within a ten-mile circle of the city probably contain a population of 146,000. It is a population that is on the flood tide of business activity. A few years ago the effect of the general depression in business circles about the country was felt in many localities in the valley. But the clouds have cleared away and the wheels of industry are again humming. All up and down the Lackawanna valley the first rays of sunshine that steal over the Moosic range at early dawn beam down upon thrift and prosperity. Through the means of rapid transit afforded by steam and trolley roads,

Scranton and her sister towns are as one, and only wait legislative action to consummate legally what has for years existed in fact through the natural course of events. Admirably situated as the centering point of half dozen or more important railroad lines, the importance of the city as a shipping station can scarcely be estimated. These facilities as well as the ample means of carrying on a government of great magnitude form many of the reasons why the various boroughs herabouts should be included in "Greater Scranton." The benefits of postal service, police and fire protection, that are to a certain extent denied our neighbors, would be a boon to many who are forced to live outside the present city limits in order to obtain the comforts of home that cannot be had in alleys and garrets.

The magnificent public buildings, the schools and the libraries are capable of accommodating the wants of hundreds who are now denied admittance because they do not reside within the city's limits. Scranton's prosperity and progress has been proverbial. When a closely allied federation of municipalities is accomplished then our greatest era of growth will begin. The remarkable attractiveness of Scranton is one of the chief sources that should tend to assist in its development. Scranton is not only noted for its healthfulness, but it is also a pleasant city in which to reside. With its handsome public and private buildings, broad streets, elegant pavements, and rapidly-developing parks, it becomes second to none as a locality in which a family may be brought to manhood and womanhood amid surroundings that lead to culture and practical knowledge of the world.

A backward glance at the career of Scranton cannot fail to impress one of

the substantial rapidity with which a city may develop in this age of progress. Where a handful of sturdy pioneers less than a half century ago pitched their tents, what do we see? An estimated population of 146,000; over 20,000 registered voters; school property valued at nearly \$1,000,000; average bank deposits of \$10,000,000; the finest public buildings, churches, amusement houses, store and office buildings, and private residences in the state.

The marvelous and substantial growth, thrift and enterprise of Scranton has probably been unequalled by any city in the country. Right in the center of a locality that has been peopled for over a century it has suddenly attained a growth that almost surpasses the inflated booms of the typical western mushroom city. Within the recollection of many of its inhabitants a wilderness has been transformed into a modern city ahead of many of its class in general progress and enterprises, which assist in making a thriving town. Through the push and ability of its leading citizens Scranton, which only a few years ago was the abode of the denizens of the forest, is now one of the most progressive cities in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The first settler of Deep Hollow, as the Electric City was designated in 1788, was Philip Abbott. In the month of May, Mr. Abbott came from Connecticut and erected a log hut on the banks of the Roaring Brook and subsequently established the first Scranton industry, in the erection of a primitive grist mill. The mill stones were of native granite and the running gear was marked for its simplicity, the entire plant being nothing more than a sort of corn-cracker, which reduced the grain to samp.

Not a nail was used in the construction of the mill and the chisel and mallet were not utilized. The loft consisted of a deer skin well tanned and perforated with numerous holes, through which the flour was sifted. In 1798 the site of the city was known as Slocum Hollow, which title was retained for many years.

In 1831 the name of Slocum Hollow was dropped and that of Scranton was substituted for the progressive town which then had about 2,000 inhabitants. The population of the city in 1833 was 2,000; in 1860 it was 9,000; in 1870 it was 25,000, and in 1890 it had been increased to 45,925. The census of 1890 showed that the population had doubled again.

The discovery of iron ore in the vicinity in 1836 attracted Messrs. Henry, Scranton and other capitalists to the resources of the Lackawanna valley, and in 1840 the nucleus of the powerful Lackawanna Iron and Steel company was formed. The company, which included Colonel George W. Scranton, Selden T. Scranton, Sanford Grant, William Henry and Philip Mattes, built the first iron furnace in this section.

The iron ore proved to be of an inferior quality and the mines on the Moosic mountains, east of the city, were abandoned. But the discovery of coal made it possible for the iron industry to continue as one of the chief enterprises of Scranton.

The Lackawanna valley is included in the northern coal field, which is the richest in the world.

STEEL RAILS.

Although known to the world as a coal city, Scranton produces steel rails of a quality unsurpassed, the output from the Scranton mills being one-