

## HAS BEEN BANNER YEAR

**\$1,485,000 Spent in Improvements in the City.**

### MANY NEW BUILDINGS

**Ranging in Cost From \$1,000 to \$150,000.**

The past year has been a banner one for Rock Island. Scarcely one of her manufacturing industries but has been operated at nearly the limit of production. In material progress the season just closed has been unexampled in the history of the city, far more money having been spent upon improvements than ever before. Both the manufacturing and the building industries are looking forward to a year of equal prosperity in 1909.

In conformity with its annual custom the Argus has made a thorough canvass of the situation with reference to building, general improving and manufacturing. Under all three heads the data obtained stands greatly to the city's credit.

Twenty-five contractors have re-

ported building lists which foot up in round numbers a total of \$1,500,000. The general improving done amounts to about \$335,000, making a grand total of \$1,485,000 expended in betterments during the year.

The number of buildings erected has not been unusually large. In fact it has been rather less than in some of the years in the past, but there have been more good buildings erected than ever before. The number of dwellings built during the season is about 150, while the number of other buildings is about twenty. The latter range in cost from store buildings valued at \$1,000 or \$2,000 up to the plant of the Standard Table Oilcloth company which cost \$150,000.

All this has been accomplished in the face of high priced building materials and labor. In fact at the beginning of the season the outlook was most discouraging and the most sanguine feared that improvements of every sort would be sparingly undertaken. This foreboding was realized to some extent, but it plainly will require something more than last season's price to stay the growth of Rock Island.

**Larger Undertakings.**

Among the most extensive undertakings in the building line which have been completed or well begun during the year may be mentioned the following: Plant of the Standard Table Oilcloth company, \$150,000; new high school building, \$115,000; Hotel Harms, \$100,000; Rock Island fifth avenue passenger station, \$75,000; public library, \$65,000; Rock Island Brewing company's addition, \$60,000; Tri-City Railway company's barn, \$50,000; London Clothing company's building, \$30,000; Lancashire-Marshall Organ company's plant, \$30,000; St. Anthony's hospital addition, \$30,000; Peter Fries' building, \$20,000; George White Buggy company's plant, \$17,000; Union Electric Telephone & Telegraph company's office, \$16,000; Spencer Memorial church, \$15,000; remodeling Rock Island National

bank quarters, \$15,000, and the Claus Franck block, \$12,000.

In addition to the above may be mentioned by way of improvements of a general nature the new telephone system that has been installed in this city during the past six months by the Union Electric Telephone & Telegraph company at a cost of \$125,000; the sum of over \$18,000 spent in the improving of Twenty-first street; about \$15,000 expended in general betterments in this city by the Tri-City Railway company, and some \$10,000 spent on driveways at Rock Island arsenal, not to mention large amounts invested in extending factories already established here and in the equipping of new ones, which is referred to elsewhere.

**Reports From Contractors.**

The reports of the extent of their operations in the city made by the various general contractors are given below. It should be borne in mind that the aim is not to set forth all the work that local contractors have done, but to show the growth of the city, and therefore in many cases the reports show only a part of the work that each has done. For instance, H. W. Horst reports some \$40,000 worth of work done in Moline. Some Rock Island builders have done even more than that outside of the city and nearly all have had some work elsewhere.

John Volk & Co. erected three buildings — the high school at \$115,000, Hotel Harms at \$100,000, and Rock Island depot at \$75,000, a total

costing in all \$14,183.

Weyerhaeuser & Bergstrom did \$10,900 worth of work, including three new residences.

Diedrick Hoehenboeken built the residence of F. K. Rhoads at \$5,600 and put up two other houses at a total cost of \$9,000.

The three houses erected by Emil Peterson cost \$8,500.

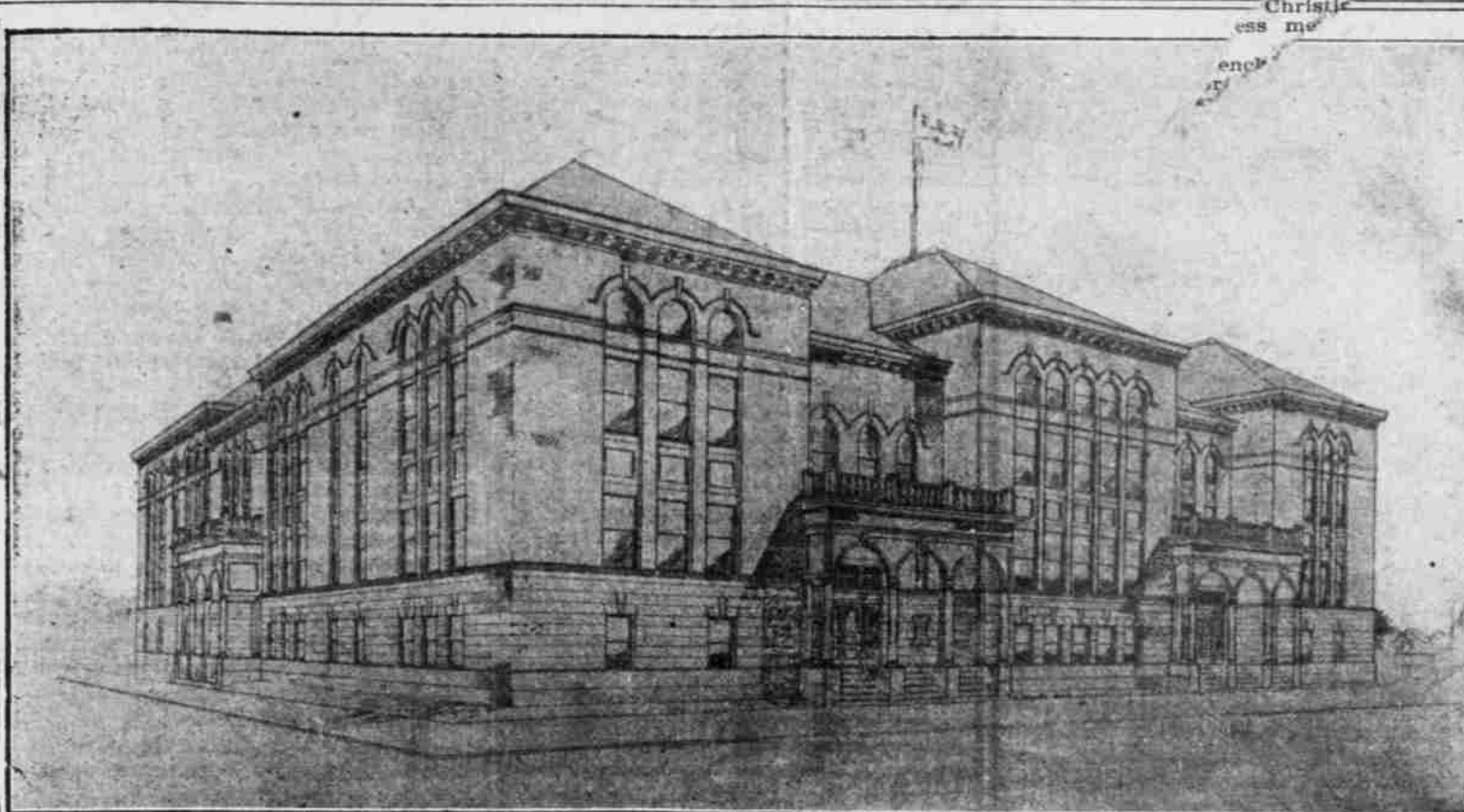
A. E. Nelson did \$8,000 worth of work, four dwelling houses being included.

A. Peterson, who does most of his work in Moline, did \$5,400 worth of building in this city, erecting two dwelling houses.

In addition to the above there were something over twenty other houses built at a cost of about \$40,000.

**Will Go Right Ahead.**

Some men who are engaged in the building trade maintain that Rock Island will not see so much money invested in improvements as has been done this season for some years to come. They argue that other expensive buildings are not needed to the extent that they were at the beginning of this season and insist that high prices in material and labor will prevent the erection of buildings as speculative investments. Such persons forget that this very same prediction was made a year ago and, in fact, that it is nearly always made at this time of the year in some quarters. The prices of materials, there is no denying, have reached the highest point and there is already signs of a break. In fact hardware and most grades of lumber have cheapened somewhat during the latter part of the fall. Builders are learning economy and lumbermen are improving facilities to go further after their timber. Rock Island's growth this season was a normal one and the extension of the manufacturing interests is keeping pace with it, thus insuring that it will continue in the years to come.



ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL, TWENTY-FIRST STREET AND SIXTH AVENUE.

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**BASEBALL BRIEFS.**

Dubuque is claiming "Chuck" Fleming, formerly of Cedar Rapids, who was announced last week as having resigned with Terre Haute. A Dubuque paper says:

"Chuck" Fleming, one of the fastest outfielders in the Three-I league last season, will wear a Dubuque uniform next year. Manager Rowland has signed him for the coming season. Fleming played left field for Cedar Rapids team last season and was considered the best man in the position in the league. He was not held because there was no reserve clause in his contract, and at the end

of the season Fleming announced he was going to Terre Haute. It seemed, however, there was some trouble with the contract the Indiana city offered him, and he wrote Manager Rowland a letter asking for terms. The latter entered into communication with Fleming, and received a telegram in which he stated that he would come here. Manager Rowland is particularly pleased about securing Fleming. He is the first man to be signed, and the fact that he is one of the best in the business, will induce other players to come here. Fleming batted .350 with Cedar Rapids last year. He is a young man and a graduate of Notre Dame university. Besides being a good batter and fielder, Fleming is a sprinter with a record of ten seconds for 100 yards. While no contract has yet been made with Charlie Ruelow, he will be a member of the team. He will undoubtedly be captain, a position he filled with Rockford for two months last year. Fred Smith and George Luke, both of Dubuque, will be given trials on the team.

The current Sporting News has a full page picture of Dave Jones on its front page, with the following in regard to that player:

"David Jones, outfielder of the Chicago National league club, is a graduate of the Rockford club of the Three-I league, with which he made his debut as a professional in 1901. He attracted the attention of Manager Nicol while a member of the college team at Dixon, Ill., and made good in his initial year as a professional. He finished the season of 1901 with the Milwaukee club and started the 1902 race with the St. Louis Browns, but after taking part in fifteen games jumped to the Chicago National league club to which he is under contract for next season."

C. W. Hallerman, owner of the Marion franchise in the Central baseball league, signed a contract with Jack Grim, of Indianapolis, to manage and captain the Marion team for the season of 1903.

How soon they forget! An Evansville paper says "at last" that town will be in a league fast enough for the town. And this after that team's record in 1901 and 1902. The Evansville paper says:

"Since the days of the Southern league of '95 the baseball enthusiasts have clamored for representation in a fast league, and now the fulfillment of their hopes is about to be realized through the indefatigable work of President Bement and his co-workers."

"Developments are not given out, as the local association does not think it policy to show their hands at this stage, but Evansville will have a fast



NEW ROCK ISLAND STATION, THIRTY-SECOND STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE.

## STRONGER WATER POWER

the monogram of the owner of the house.

During the search of the house the detectives carried little hammers. They were instructed to use the hammers in sounding the walls. They did not tap very lightly, and several times Mr. Canfield begged them not to strike so hard, as he feared they would break the frescoing and otherwise damage the walls. Once a detective struck a handsome interlaced monogram of mother of pearl, and a great piece of the pearl fell to the polished floor.

On the walls of the first floor were beautiful specimens of inlaid mother of pearl monograms and tracings. On the ceilings were types of the highest art of the fresco painter and artist. Throughout the rooms were great pillars all gilded and resplendent in gold tracing.

### TWILIGHT IN IRELAND.

**It Is Different From That Seen in Any Other Country.**

The interior of a typical Irish cabin is a sorry sight. The floor is of stone, uncovered except for a few rag mats. The furniture is of the poorest, and sometimes it is homemade; tables improvised from boxes, chairs from barrels, and the beds more like stalls for cattle, with their straw mattresses and bundle of rags for clothing. A slow, dull fire of peat gives a cheerless warmth to the room. What few dishes there are belonging to the family are arranged on the mantelpiece. Strips of bacon, dried cod and herbs hang from the ceiling.

After a frugal meal Pat will take his

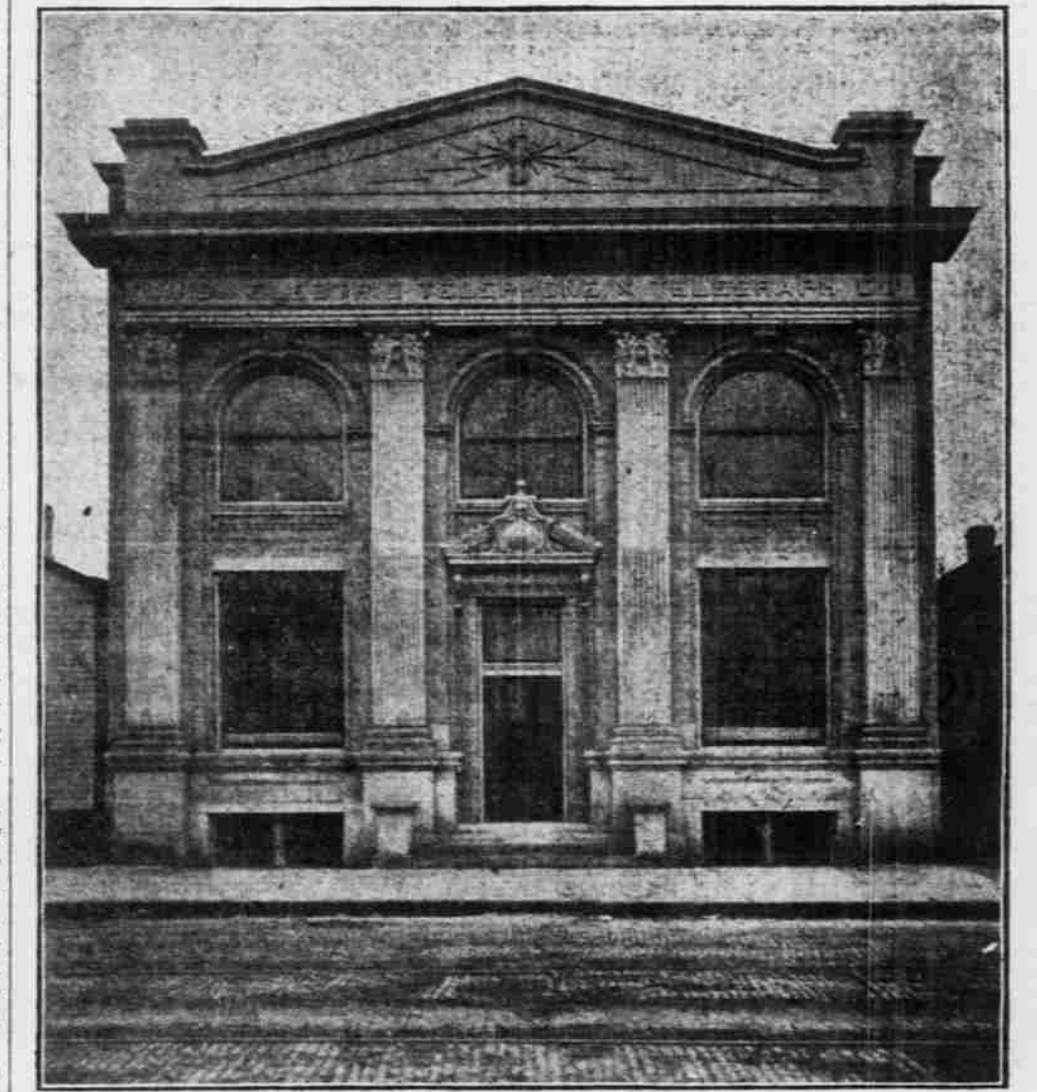
**Big Job in Tail Race Completed by Davis Company.**

### CHANNEL IS DEEPEINED

**200,000 Yards of Rock Removed in Two Years.**

During the past week the Davis company has practically finished work on one of the largest contracts that has ever been undertaken for the improvement of the water power developed in Sylvan water. It called for the removal of about 100,000 yards of stone from the tailrace and 55,000 yards from the channel between the government water power dam and the junction with the tailrace below it. In the execution of the work peculiar difficulties have been met and overcome.

The tailrace, which extends from the Peoples Power company's plant west about 2,800 feet, under the contract with the government was to be deepened three feet and widened from 150 to 180 feet. This work was order-



UNION ELECTRIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, FOURTH AVENUE AND TWENTY-FIRST STREET.

evening promenade. It is between supper time and going to bed that the Irish most enjoy themselves. An Irish twilight is different from any other; indeed, it is without a rival. It seems as if the sun were loath to set, casting its rays over the Emerald Isle many hours after it had disappeared elsewhere. In that delicious moment, just before it finds its final resting place for the night, it is most enchanting. Over everything is an unspeakable spell of peace and quiet, and a warm glow casts into shadow unsightly objects and surrounds them with a mystic halo of golden light. It radiates into the hearts of Ireland's humblest inhabitants, and they sally forth, rich and poor alike, mingling in a throng of living, moving humanity.

### EAGER TO HUNT IN ALASKA

**President Roosevelt Hears Glowing Reports on Giant Moose There.**

H. S. New, editor of the Indianapolis Journal, made a report at the White House the other day that set the president to walking up and down and rubbing his hands, says a Washington special dispatch to the New York World. The president had heard about Alaska as a hunting ground and had had Mr. New go up and investigate.

"That's nothing," said Mr. New as he jerked his thumb toward the big moose head in the state dining room. "You can get 'em half as big again and shoot 'em yourself. They're there by the hundred."

Then he went into details, and the president, enraptured, planned a trip to the frozen north. Mr. New got two moose, but could have shot many more. He saw 3,000 mountain sheep in one day's tramp, and the country is over-run with small game. His recital of the hardships a hunter must undergo on account of the climate and the rough country only whetted the president's desire to make the trip.

Forty-three inches was the length and 6 pounds 5 ounces the weight of a grass snake which has been killed at Wisbech, England.

**Stone Difficult to Loosen.**

The main difficulty met in the undertaking lay in the quality of the stone that had to be loosened and moved. It is a very hard variety of limestone, being about 97 per cent calcium carbonate, and therefore offered a great amount of resistance to the drills and dynamite that were used. The mouth of the tailrace had to be cut off with a cofferdam and pumps be kept at work night and day to keep the sewage from the lower part of Moline and the water that ran off the adjacent hills pumped out. The pumps used had a capacity of 28,000,000 daily and part of the time they were run to the limit. The nearness of buildings rendered it impossible to use large charges of dynamite and therefore more drilling had to be done than might otherwise have been necessary. It is estimated that in the two and one-half years that the work was in progress the drilling that was done would make in the aggregate an opening 200,000 feet long through the same rock. Twelve steam drills were kept at work most of the time. The charges were fired by electricity. It is a remarkable fact that in the firing of so many tons of dynamite in small charges not a single

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