

THE ANDOVER NEWS.

VOL. XVIII, NO. 1.

ANDOVER, ALLEGANY COUNTY, N. Y., FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1904.

TERMS: One Dollar a Year, 10 Cents a Single Copy

We Wish You All a Happy and Prosperous New Year

WHAT ANDOVER HAS DONE

\$55,000 Expended for Improvements Within the Last Twelve Months.

has been accomplished for the benefit of mankind during the last year than during all other years, and altho Andover is a small village, at the same time without vanity hold up its claim to be a good principal industry has been dairying.

formed from Independence, January 21, 1824. In November 22, 1855, a part of the town of Wellsville was added, it now having an area of 23,756 acres. The soil is admirably adapted to grazing, and for years the principal industry has been dairying.

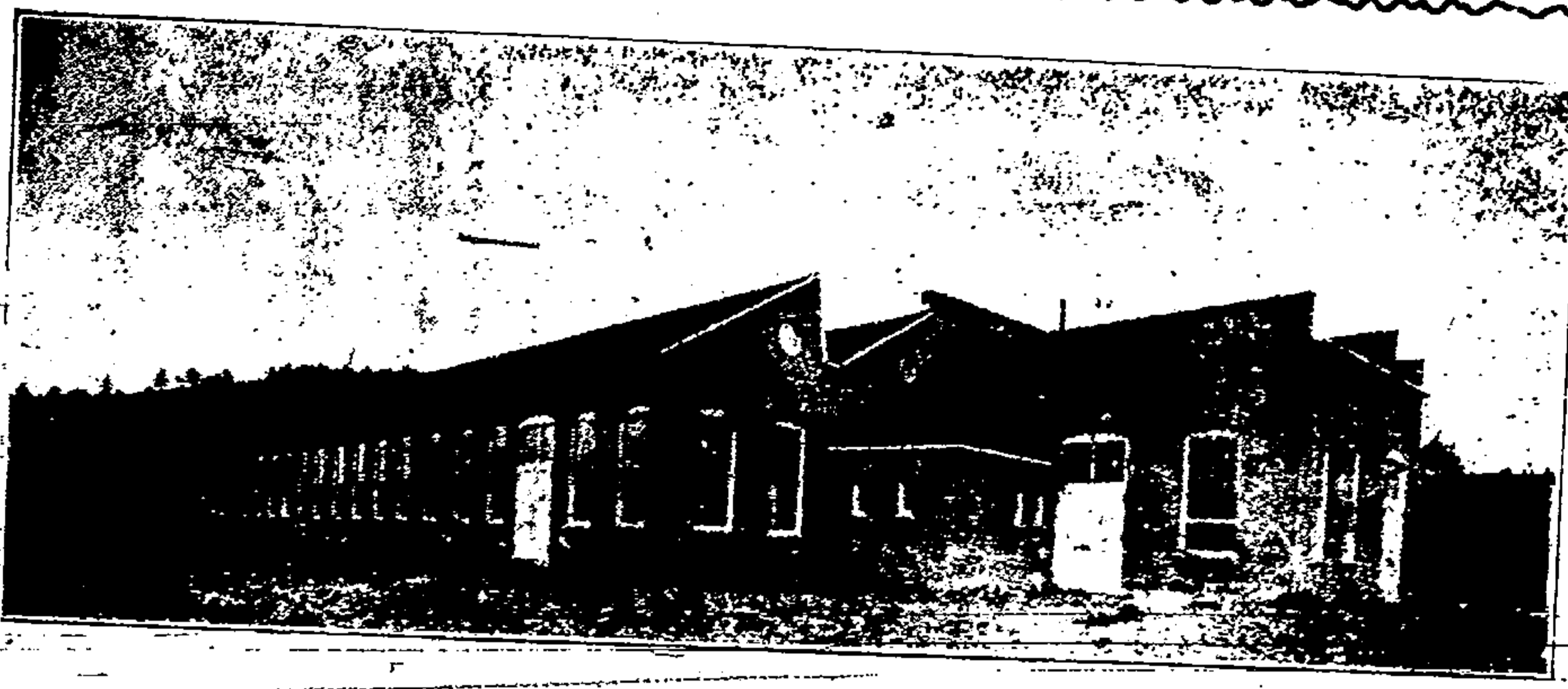


W. E. BUNDY

President of Andover Business Men's Association and Postmaster.

part of the whole. In the past eighteen months she has done more for the betterment of the village than during all other years. She has made progress toward advancement since the Bakers' era. The soil nearly a century ago has made Andover people have a lethargy into a progressive village, of which has cause to be proud. She has secured two fine sites that will give employment and the other to cost to Andover these establishments the mill nearly equal amount—but benefits derived from the house now sets grounds, at a cost of \$50,000. New bridges have been built in the past year, and of course done a large share of their shopping here. From Whites-

Nathaniel Dike is claimed as the first settler, coming into the town in 1795. Andover village is located on Dike Creek, in the central part of the town, 18 miles west of Hornellsville and 14 miles east of Belmont, the County Seat. It was settled in 1807 by Alpheus Baker. In 1822, within what is now "Corporate limits," there were but four dwellings and but one frame building. Asa Allen was Andover's first merchant. The hamlet which was the chrysalis of the present handsome and thriving village was known as "Bakerstown." With the construction of the Erie railroad the village began to look up, but made slow progress till within the past eighteen months. Its only source for drawing trade was that of having excellent shipping facilities for the farm produce raised upon the fertile farms lying all around nine miles in either direction. Farmers came to Andover to market their crops from many miles and of course done a large share of their shopping here. From Whites-



ROCHAMBEAU SILK COMPANY'S NEW MILL, AT ANDOVER.

ville, Rexville, Greenwood and beyond all of these places it was not strange to see farmers on Andover's streets daily. But with the building of the New York and Pennsylvania railroad in 1894 much of this valuable patronage was lost, to other localities. While this was undoubtedly a benefit to the many and a detriment to the few, that few were the Andover business men and it had the tendency to make hard times for them. Fortunately, however, for the Andover people, a few years prior to the building of this railroad, a "wild cat" venture discovered the presence of natural gas and oil in this vicinity. No event in the history of Andover has contributed more to its material welfare than this, coming as it did at a most opportune time, the village tradesmen scarcely felt the loss of their rural customers from those far off points. The first production was struck late in December 1889, gas being found at 648 feet and 28 feet of oil sand at 718 feet. When first drilled this well gave a pressure of 400 pounds. The out-come of this venture stimulated effort and other operators were soon drilling with varying degrees of success, but

word by many that "Andover was on the bum." Our own merchants and business men had to admit the fact that the town was not what it once was. Speak of locating a factory in Andover and the answer came back "You can't get anything to come here. That has been tried." From the date of its first issue to the present time the ANDOVER NEWS has been closely connected with the interests of the town. It has always stood up for it. It has advocated every measure calculated to enhance the well-being of the community and to advance the interests of its patrons. It advocated the incorporation of the village; the institution of an academic department, and later a High School, in the Union School; the construction of the Water Works, which should be a fire department; and the location of industries, has always been next to its heart. Because of the articles published, pointing out the crying need of manufacturing establishments in Andover, and showing the natural advantages offered to

members of Andover's business men was what won.

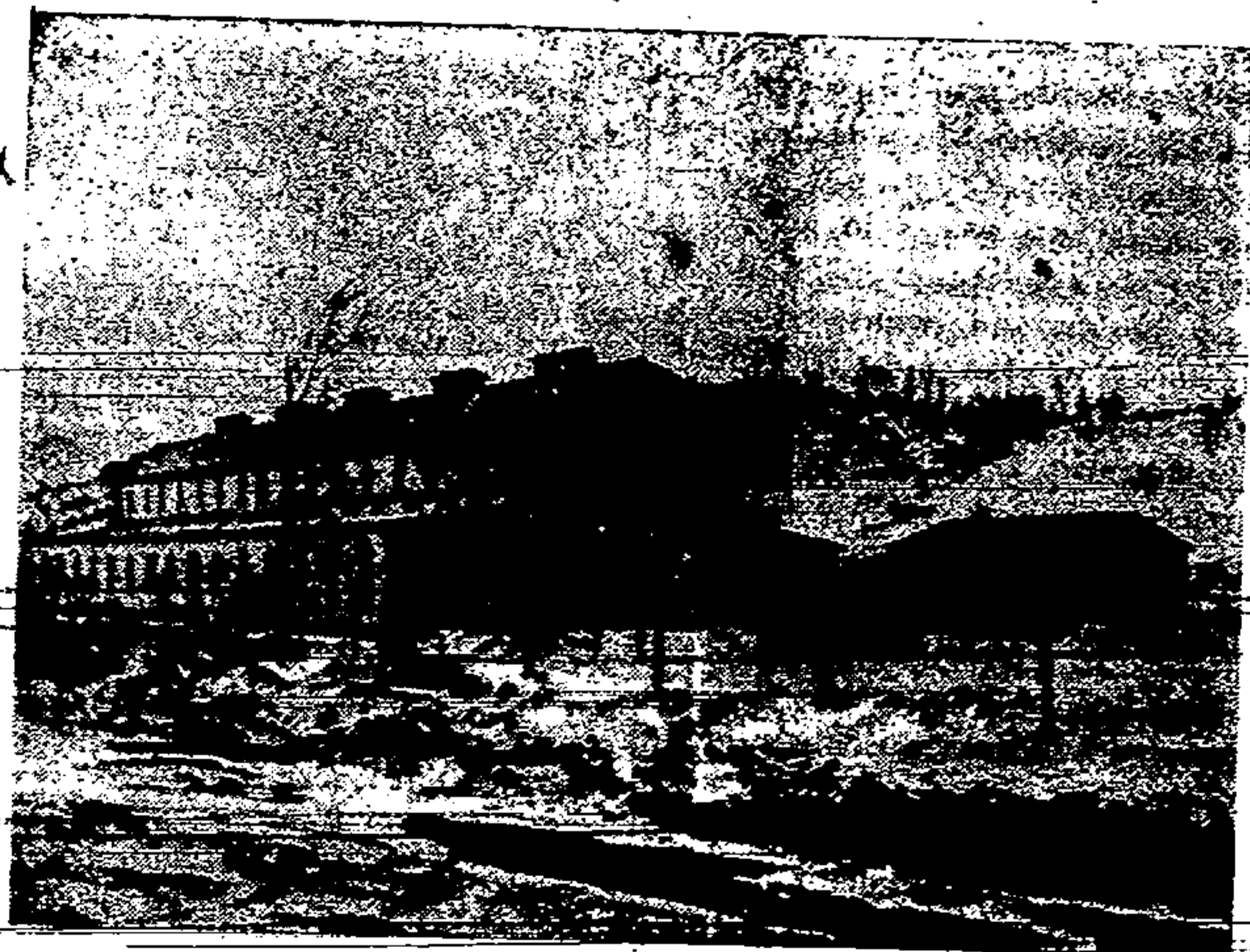
The Association was officered the first year as follows: President, W. B. Bundy; Vice President, E. J. Atwood; Secretary, J. H. Backus; Treasurer, J. M. Brundage; Directors, A. B. Richardson, C. L. Earley, Jesse S. Phillips, J. E. Cannon, F. S. Clark, A. B. Burrows. The Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the association and the directors.

Thus officered with young blood that heretofore had not met the discouragements of trying to build up a town, full of vim, and with a single purpose, the association began existence. At its next meeting, a week later, more new members were received, and the membership raised to thirty-two. To the president of the



E. J. ATWOOD

Successful Oil Operator. Vice President of the Business Men's Association.



ANDOVER STAMPING COMPANY'S NEW ENAMELING PLANT.

generally sufficiently remunerative to advance production and make an important factor in the town.

Within herself Andover has never been self-supporting. Years ago, 'tis true, a woolen mill was located here, financed with home capital and conducted by one who had but little financial interest in the business. It burned nearly half a century ago, and with it was consumed most of the local faith in manufacturing enterprises, the town being built up for the single purpose of handling the large rural trade. This state of affairs existed year after year, the consensus of opinion being that what we needed most was a manufacturing plant. The business men some seven or eight years ago organized a Board of Trade, but to no purpose. Several attempts to locate industries that would give employment to men or women were made, but either the parties were not considered reliable or the Board of Trade did not have the support of the citizens in carrying out their plans. At all events nothing was accomplished in the way of locating industries in Andover by that organization. It finally became a by-

such plants here, more than for any other reason the present boom to Andover has been brought about. We reprint an extract from an article published in the News only a few weeks prior to the organization of the Business Men's Association:

"Whatever it may be, we need something that will give employment to more people in Andover. So everybody be ready with a helpful hand and cheerful word to any one who may have such an enterprise in view. We have been disappointed in the past, we may be disappointed this time, but before the ANDOVER NEWS gives up, Andover will have more manufacturing industries numbered among us."

Three weeks after that the News says:

"We have reiterated in these columns over and over again, that we should not give up the idea of more manufacturing enterprises being located here until they were obtained."

After thus declaring itself the News went to work to make its word good. A paper was prepared with the following caption: "The undersigned Business Men of Andover, N. Y., are in sympathy with the idea of perfecting an organization to be known as the Business Men's Association of And-

over, with the single purpose of improving and enlarging Andover, and will join such an organization." Forty-seven signatures were obtained to this paper, and the party who presented this paper for signature received but one answer from nearly the entire forty-seven. "Why, yes, I'll join, but what is the use? You can't get anything in Andover!"

However, a meeting for the purpose of organization was called for the evening of July 14, 1902. Of the forty-seven who had signed the paper to be present but about twenty-five were there to assist in the organization of the association. They were mostly young business men, and when they came face to face with each other and talked over the prospects of a Greater Andover, they became enthused with the idea, and from that moment the "We can't do anything" spirit left Andover, we hope forever and in its stead was inscribed "We will do something." With all credit to the older members of the association, whose experience and advice was earnestly sought, and many times heeded to the advantage of the association, it is only just to say that the enthusiasm shown by the young-

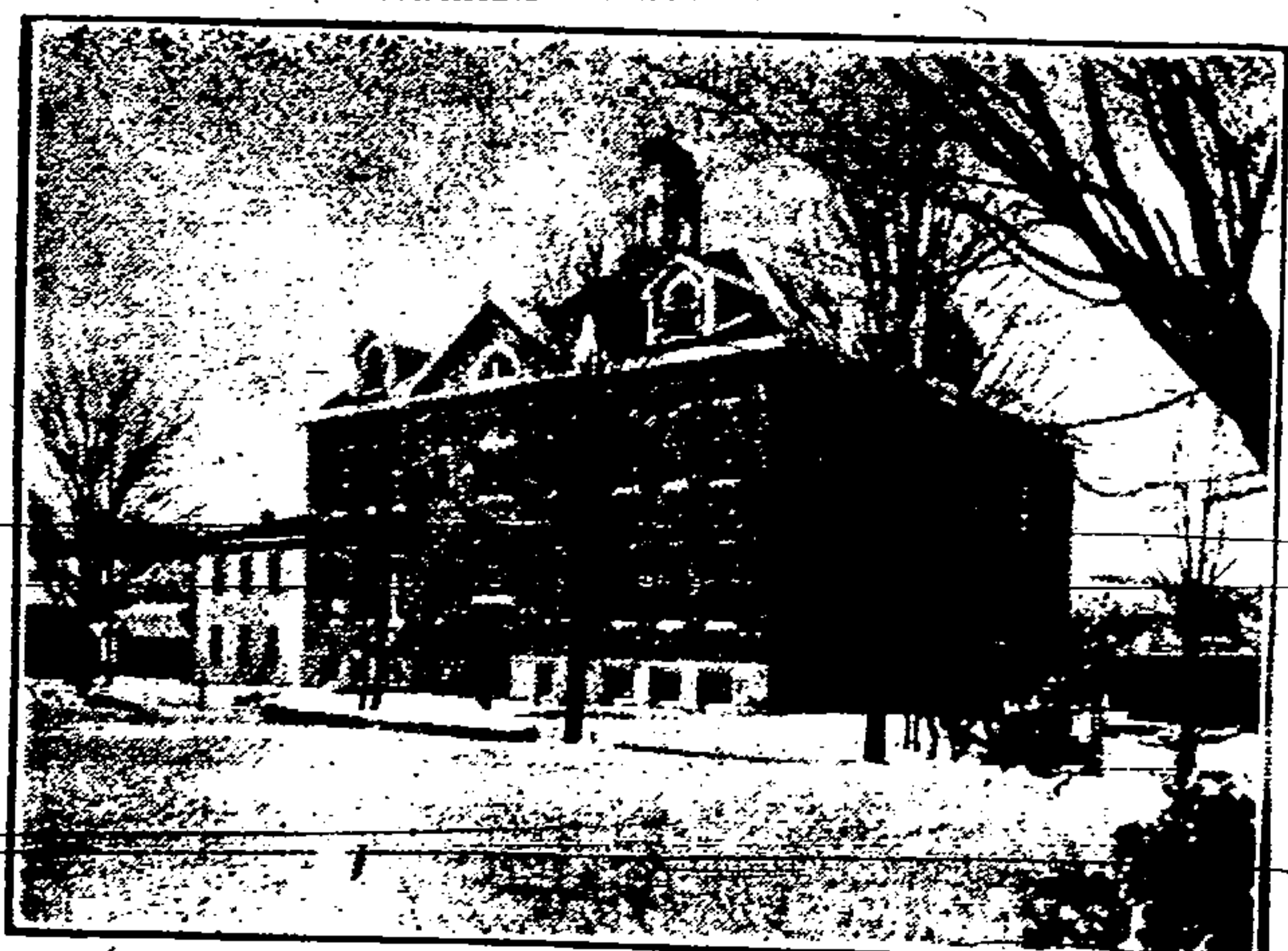
association, W. B. Bundy, whose leadership and undaunted zeal for the success of Andover acted like magic to enthrone his associates, Andover people should feel greatly indebted. Thru the untiring efforts of the Executive Committee, however, the credit is due for the wonderful work wrought. They began to lay plans and to execute them immediately. A neat little booklet, telling of Andover, its people, location, healthfulness, religious and social life, educational advantages, cheap and cleanly fuel, pure and wholesome water, and the many other natural advantages to be gained by locating a manufacturing plant here, was issued by the association. The president and secretary of the association took the matter of the distribution of these booklets in hand, and thru the industrial department of the Erie railroad, were furnished almost weekly with bulletins of manufacturing plants desirous of either changing location or starting a new plant. Every one of these people received a copy of the Andover booklet. Many answers were received. Over one hundred and fifty letters were written in answer to questions submitted.

(Continued on next page.)



C. B. LEVER.

President of the Village of Andover.



OUR NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.