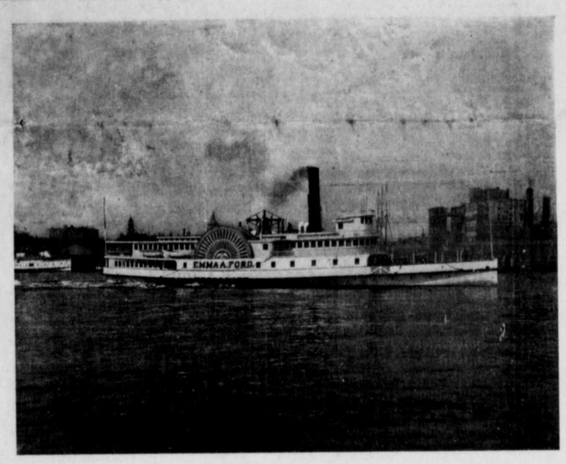
The Chester River Steamboat Company.

A POPULAR COMPANY AND A LARGE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE WEALTH OF KENT COUNTY.

Under Progressive Management--Characterized by a Liberal Policy--Operates a Splendid Fleet of Boats.

A high degree of civilization extending simultaneously over a large portion of the earth's surface is an impossibility without the existence of steamboats, which have been aptly termed "The pioneers of civilization." It is true that the historical records of Egypt and Greece, together with a few relics of art productions of ancient people bear evidence of highly developed and cultured minds, but their territory was limited, and the high degree of mental culture confined to a few select circles. The industrial growth and general intelligence among the people of all the countries of modern Europe, and the still greater degree of advancement and intelligence existing among the people of the United States is mainly the result of our superior transportation facilities, both by railways and steamboats, which have made our marvelous development the wonder of the age. Thus it is seen that our perfect and rapid transportation facilities are the real industrial promoters and civilizers. Th ey take the restless people out of our crowded cities and leave them in comfortable homes. They take them lumber and stone wherewith to build their school houses; they transport to them the combined inventive achievements of the country from thousands of shops, mills and foundaries that thickly dot our land. They lay at their door the luscious fruits and fragrant spices of foreign lands. They fill their libraries with the condensed thought of the world's greatest minds.



The greatest benefactor to Chestertown and Kent county is the Chester River Steamboat Company, which has contributed more to the general prosperity of this section that all other factors combined; it operates a fleet of freight and passenger steamers equal to any that plow the waters of the "Beautiful Chesapeake," and is by far the most popular with the traveling public as well as the citizens generally in all the towns and hamlets it touches. It is the constant aim of the management, not only to render every accommodation to patrons, but also to give a helping hand and substantial support to develop and populate the country that sustains it, recognizing the fact that the prosperity of one is so intertwined with the well being of the other, that their interests are mutual and identical. The company owns four fine steamers: the Emma A. Ford, Gratitude, Corsica and B. S. Ford (the latter being leased to the Queen Anne's R. R. Co.), all of which are among the fastest and finest steamers which ply the picturesque bay. The saloons, cabins, state rooms and dining rooms are most spacious and comfortably fitted, and the cuisine on the boats is first-class.

There is no trip more delightful or refreshing in the torrid months of July and August than up the placid Chester. From the time of stepping aboard either of their fine steamers—"Emma Ford" or "Gratitude," at Baltimore, until stepping off at their terminuses respectively, Chestertown or Centreville, the passenger is charmed by a kaleidoscopic view of pastoral beauty; fertile landscapes clothed in green and gold, and dotted here and there are old manors of colonial days that lift their proud gables skyward. Cosey villages teem with bustling, happy life; orchards hang with luscious fruit; fields of waving golden grain greet the eye from every view and give the traveler a charming glimpse of the Eastern Shore.

The Chester River Steamboat Company was organized by Col. B. S. Ford, Capt. E. S. T. Young and others, and was granted its charter from the State of Maryland in 1865. Col. Ford was elected president and general manager of the new company. They purchased the steamers "Chester" and "George Law," which laid the solid foundation for the great prosperity and success it has achieved. Col. Ford remained at the head and was the chief controlling spirit in directing the company's affairs until his death, which occurred in 1879. His strong attachment for the Eastern Shore, and his benevolent life is remembered and revered by our people.

Mr. George Warfield succeeded Col. Ford, and his mantle could not have fallen upon the shoulders of a man more able to fill the position and meet the requirements of our people. Mr. Warfield's management has been characterized by the push and energy of the 19th century business man, and under his management the steamers Corsica and Emma A. Ford have been built and the Gratitude purchased. Warehouses, piers and wharf property have been acquired as the company's business demanded them.

Capt. James C. Taylor is the popular and approachable general agent of the company, and has filled this position since 1882. Much of the actual management is directed by Capt. Taylor, who has won an enviable reputation among the Eastern Shoremen for his accommodating manner, his sympathy with local enterprises and his devotion to Kent county.

Mr. Joel R. Clements represents the company here, and is obliging and held in high esteem by all. Mr. Clements is himself an old steamboat man, having been an officer on the first steamer ever owned by the Chester River Company.

History of Washington College.

An Address Delivered by Prof. Roland Watts Before the Philomathean Society.

We cannot give a more accurate description or a more correct historic resume of this time-honored educational institution than is embodied in the following lecture, delivered by Prof. Roland Watts in 1892:

The early settlers of our commonwealth were for the most part sturdy, lower and middle class men from old England, who sought in the New World an asylum from religious and political persecution. The first five decades were so laboriously spent in wresting a living from the reluctant soil or in barter with the aborigines, that little practical thought was given to the more elegant, if not so necessary matter, of education. We may live without books but not without bread. We must say, however, that Maryland was not in this respect behind her sister colonies. Her charter was the first, perhaps, in the world that gave legislative power to the people (1633). Her people were certainly among the first in this New World to meet in representative body to make laws. The form of government instituted by the Calverts, was little different from that of the present.

The year 1694 is memorable for the first provision for free schools. By free schools we mean schools for liberal culture rather than schools free of tuition. Though the act was passed in 1694, owing to the practical difficulty in the way, little was done to make it of real value. Annapolis, the capital, and at that time the chief city of the State, had the King William's school, and there was probably one at Oxford.

It was under the act of 1723 that the Chestertown free school, from which Washington College is the legitimate offspring, was established. A charter was granted to St. John's College in 1784, and it was consolidated with the King William's school in 1786. It was not founded upon the King William's school as Washington College was upon the Kent County free school.

The natural obstacle to communication between the Eastern and Western Shores offered by the bay, led to the founding of two colleges. This separation has naturally produced a division of interest and a certain antagonism which has operated against the best interests of both. Had all our educational energy been centered at one point, no doubt our university to-day would have been an object of pride and a thing of beauty. The schools of law, medicine and of dentistry founded in Baltimore at a later date, have flourished, but as a State University all our schools are a failure and have not accomplished what their patriotic founders had a right to expect of them.

Upon the representation of the trustees of the Kent county school, that there were 140 students in attendance, and that from the lack of proper collegiate advantages our youths were compelled to go to Europe or the northern colleges to complete their education, the Legislature agreed that if the people of the Eastern Shore would within five years collect $5000, that they would appropriate annually and forever the sum of 1250 francs or ($3333.33).

Dr. Smith within five months, instead of the allotted five years, had raised $14,000, and the appropriation was made in May, 1783. The sum of 1750 francs was in the same manner appropriated to St. John's College in 1784. Rev. John Carroll, afterward the first Catholic Arch Bishop in America; Rev. Wm. Smith, D. D., who was the first Protestant Episcopal Bishop elected in Maryland, though he was never consecrated (the bishop had to go to England to be consecrated); Patrick Allison, Richard Spriggs and John Sterrett were appointed agents to obtain subscriptions for the colleges.

Washington College was peculiarly fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Smith. At the commencement of the revolution, Dr. Smith was provost of the College of Philadelphia (which developed into the University of Pennsylvania), but sympathizing with the patriots in their struggle for the sacred principles of liberty and justice, he was deprived of his position, and came with his little family in 1780, to Chestertown, where he became rector at a salary of 600 bushels of wheat per annum. In the same year he was made principal of the Free School, which he combined with his own private class, to form quite a respectable academy, with a competent corps of instructors. From this academy in two years, as we have seen, sprang Washington College.

The college was organized with Dr. Smith, president, Colin Ferguson, A. M., vice-president, and Samuel Armer, A. M., professor of Natural Philosophy and Logic. There were also, we are informed, tutors and French teachers, but in those days they did not attach much importance to such positions, for no names except that of Mr. Coudon, former headmaster, are found.

The free school was situated where the residence of Hon. Marion deKalb Smith now stands.

The act founding the college provided that if any contributor or contributors in any county on the Eastern Shore should engage to pay toward the founding of the college a sum not less than 500 francs current money payable in Spanish milled dollars or the value thereof in good merchantable wheat or tobacco, that there should be a member of the board of Visitors and Governors chosen from that county forever, for every 500 francs paid. A like agreement was made with the country schools and authority given to the board to arrange for the education of a certain number of pupils sent from the county in which such subscribing school might be situated.

Ten visitors and governors in addition to the seven already allowed, were chosen according to the above arrangement. These should all reside upon the Eastern Shore, but the act further provided for seven to be taken from other parts of the State or adjoining States. It was in pursuance of this last clause that General Washington became a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors.

General Washington, who had kindly allowed the infant institution to be christened for him, visited the college at its commencement in 1784, and signed his name to the illustrious roll of Visitors and Governors. What sacred memories crowd one's fancy as he gazes upon that bold signature now yellow with age. The hero, the savior of his country. Yet the humblest of men. Full of proud, cold dignity he took a lively interest in all the affairs of life. Rather than the royal diadem and the throne at his command he preferred to bless his land with freedom, and plant his imperishable throne in the affections of his countrymen.

The first commencement and the first college commencement ever held in the State, was celebrated Wednesday, May 14, 1783. On the day following, May 15, the anniversary of which we are now celebrating, the Visitors and Governors, professors, masters, students and grammar school scholars, accompanied by a great concourse of people, went in procession to college hill, where with impressive ceremonies, the cornerstone was laid by Governor Paca, who was saluted upon the occasion by thirteen discharges of cannon. Orations in French were delivered by Messrs. Thos. Worrall and Ebenezer Perkins, and a pastoral dialogue was spoken by Messrs. Robert Smith, Robert Buchanan and Joseph Nicholson in shepherds costume.

Upon the occasion of General Washington's visit the students acted in his honor the tragedy of "Gustavus Vasa," the great deliverer of Sweden from Danish oppression. At the close of the performance Dr. Smith said: "Young gentlemen, you have just performed a play illustrative of the life and actions of 'Gustavus Vasa.' Behold the Gustavus of America." Afterward some verses composed by Dr. Smith, in honor of their distinguished guest, were introduced and were received by the great audience with bursts of applause.

On the 11th of July, 1789, Rev. Wm. Smith, D. D., Hon. John Henry, of the United States Senate, and Hon. Joshua Seney, of the House of Representatives, were appointed a committee by the Board of Visitors and faculty of Washington College, to wait upon General Washington just after his election as President of the United States, and present him with an address and the degress of LL. D., in the name of the college.

An interesting correspondence in reference to the matter may be seen in Scharf's History of Maryland, vol. 2, pps. 515 to 517.

The appropriations given to the college were withdrawn, or diminished to an insignificant sum, and the law making Washington and St. John's College parts of a State University, was repealed in 1805. The sums appropriated were inadequate, and the colleges had not been able to maintain even the semblance of a university. While upon the subject of appropriations, we may profitably quote some of the most important data. Passing over the original appropriation of which we have already spoken, we will add that in 1798, act 107, it was reduced to 750 francs (2000), and so continued until 1805, chapter 85, when it was removed and the law repealed as before said.

In 1812 a returning sense of the wrong done the college and broken faith to her citizens upon the Eastern Shore, who trusting in the honor of their State, had built the colleges, induced the State to appropriate $800 per annum. In 1834, $300 of this amount was bestowed upon the Milliogton Academy.

We are sorry time will not permit us to do justice to the gallant young representative from our country, who so succeeded in awakening dormant conscience of the State, that she gave us in 1848, an appropriation of $1500 additional. By the act of 1856, chapter 219, the further sum of $1000 was granted, and after Wicomico county was organized by act of 1870, chapter 339, the addition sum of $375, making the entire annual appropriation $3,375. In 1874, chapter 282, the legislature granted an additional $2,000 and increased the number of free students from 9 to 15. Despite the fact that the original appropriation was for the pay of professors, etc., and that by reducing and removing it, the State had robbed the college of over $150,000, the tax on the condition of education of boys for the money appropriated. By the act passed this year, through the earnestness of our alumni and friends, (I am sorry time will not permit me to mention our friends), the appropriation has been increased to $6,375, and the number of beneficiaries to 18. In regard to the students the State has educated and is educating, I do not believe our commonwealth had made any more profitable investment. Men who have received their education through the munificence of the State, at Washington College, are with credit filling important positions in this State, and in fact are now scattered to all quarters of the Union—a blessing to the communities in which they dwell, and an honor to their State. In all the various avenues of life, they demonstrate the wisdom of public education.

Dr. Smith retired from the presidency of the college about 1788, and resumed his former position at the University of Pennsylvania. He was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Colin Furguson, a native of Kent, but educated at Edinburg. In 1805 Dr. Furguson was succeeded by Mr. Colin Furguson, his nephew, as the sole professor. We are personally of the opinion that Mr. Colin Fugurson was head master of the grammar school, and not president of the college. He was at the head of the English school, according to the authority of Hon. John W. Crisfield, and was an excellent teacher.

The unwise, not to say dishonest, course of the State in removing the appropriations had crippled the college very materially, but the appropriation of 1812 helped it very much, and it began at once to improve.

Rev. Joseph G. Cooper, was elected president in August, 1816. In June, 1817, Mr. Cooper was authorized to arrange for the lottery allowed by the Legislature to raise $30,000 for the college. The lottery was finally sold to Mr. Palmer Canfield, of New York, for $20,000, the interest of which only can be used, the principle to remain intact.

Mr. Gerald E. Stack was elected president Oct. 10th, 1817. Nothing of importance occurred during his brief reign, except a fire in November, 1817, which was suppressed by the students and neighbors. James Lynch and Thomas Taylor were especially valiant, and received the thanks of the Board, and Mr. Taylor, who lived on the college property, was released from rent that year.

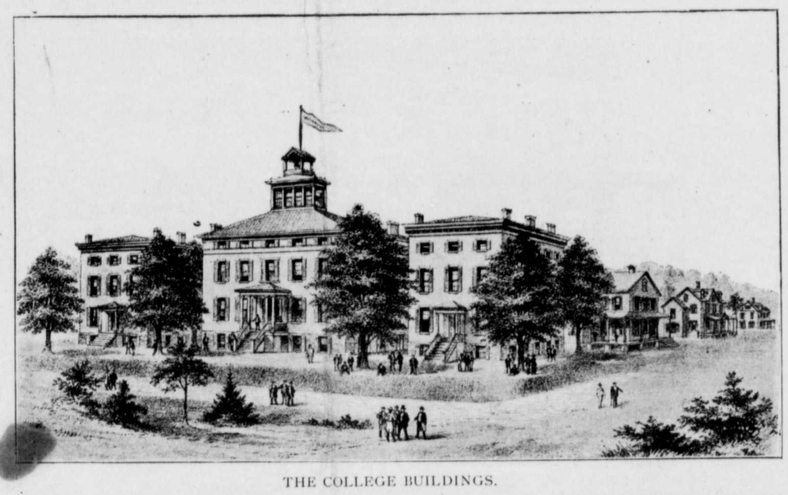
On December 30th, 1817, Rev. Dr. Francis Waters was elected principal, and continued to guide the affairs of the college with rare ability and success for many years. Dr. Waters was a Methodist Protestant minister of great eloquence and profound attainments. He was four times president of the Maryland Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church.

The first twenty years of the college were very prosperous, the number of students often reaching 200, then followed 20 of a very checkered existence, and on Jan. 11, 1827, the college was entirely destroyed by fire. The original building was a fine three story brick structure with a basement. It was 160 feet front, the main part 100, and the wings 60 feet deep, and would accommodate 200 students. The building though still unfinished, cost $28,000, the entire sum being raised on the Peninsula.

After the burning of the college, exercises were conducted in a large three-story brick buildieg owned by Col. Joseph Wickes, and standing upon the site of Capt. Burchinal's residence. A prominent gentleman of our community speaks of a certain rayless dark room in the basement into which refractory students were sometimes thrust.

The exercises were conducted in the rectory, as it was called (because Rev. Clement F. Jones had intended to reside there had not the unfortunate fire made it necessary to use it for college purposes) until Ash Wednesday, 1839, when it was destroyed by fire. The college exercises were then conducted in an old building upon the site of the public until Jan. 1st. 1845, when it was finally moved to the present middle building.

Prof. Clark was succeeded March 19th, 1832, by Richard W. Ringgold, A. M. About this time the Legislature refused to permit the board to have another lottery, and as we have said, reduced the appropriation to $500. Under such adverse circumstances the attendance became so small that, upon the resignation of Prof. Jas. M. Spencer, Prof. Ringgold continued as the sole instructor until the election of Rev. Clement F. Jones, professor of English, in 1835. The school had in the meantime been able to maintain itself only upon a contracted scale. No degrees were conferred from the time of the fire in 1827 until 1849. Of those who received the A. B., in 1849. Major Eben F. Perkins and Dr. W. J. Wroth, of Baltimore, are the only survivors.



THE COLLEGE BUILDINGS.

JAMES T. IRELAND.

A Prominent Citizen and Candidate for County Treasurer.

The subject of our sketch has been a conspicuous figure in Kent county for many years and is recognized as one of the most successful farmers in this section. He is a striking example of what industry, thrift and intelligent management can accomplish in this work-a-day world of ours. Mr. Ireland is a large land owner, and is one of the most successful fruit growers, having giveng reat attention to the cultivation of the different kinds of fruit grown in this section. The exactions of business render Mr. Ireland a very busy man. His ancestors were of English extraction and located in Maryland before the Revolutionary War. He was born in Chestertown in 1851 and received his education in the public schools. On reaching manhood, he selected farming for his life work, and in 1876 he began cultivating the soil, which occupation he has followed successfully. Mr. Ireland received the nomination from the democratic party for treasurer of Kent county at the recent convention, which is a just tribute to his worth, and a recognition of his long service in the ranks of the party. A descendant of the purest democratic stock, he has always been an unwavering democrat, and has accepted every opportunity to battle in its behalf. Mr. Ireland comes before the voters of Kent county with a clean record, the breath of slander never having smirched his good name, and if elected, he will fill the office with credit to himself and the people who elect him.

VICTOR HENDRICKSON

Democratic Candidate for Judge of the Orphans' Court.

Truly has it been said that "the farmers are the bone and sinew of the country," and that no State can long flourish when the farms are deserted and land untilled. Time and again has history repeated itself, and we find that when agriculture declined it was the beginning of the end of that country's importance in the onward march to progress and greatness.

America is fortunate in her vast army of industrious and intelligent farmers, and owes to them much more than to any other class, her position of pre-eminence among nations. The gentleman that forms the caption of this sketch, is an earnest lover of the independent and peaceful avocation, and is a practical, energetic farmer. His homestead is situated about four miles from Chestertown, contains 300 acres and is in a prosperous state of cultivation. Mr. Hendrickson is one of the substantial farmers and progressive citizens in Kent county.

He was born in New Castle, Del., where he was raised and educated, coming to Kent in 1865. He selected for his life work the occupation of the farmer and has succeeded in acquiring a competency by industry and intelligent management. Mr. Hendrickson has always been an active worker in the Democratic vineyard, ready with his influence and purse to forward the political creed of Jefferson and Jackson. He was elected county commissioner in 1881 and served the county until 1886.

His official record received the commendation of the people, and he was recognized as being conservative, yet progressive and a man of excellent judgment. Mr. Hendrickson received the nomination from his party for judge of the orphans' court, and is now a candidate before the voters of Kent county. He is a man wholly worthy of the honor, competent in every detail to discharge the duties of the office, and if elected, he will give to the county a clean, honest and conservative administration.

RADCLIFFE ROLLER MILLS.

Owned and Managed by Price & Topping.

The mill owned and operated by the above gentlemen is an illustration of the marvelous advancement of modern science on mechanical lines, or the improvement made in building machinery. A great writer has said: "When the morning of science dawned upon the world, it found agriculture plowing with a stick and reaping with a sickle, with commerce at the mercy of adverse winds." In no one line has that same science done more than for agriculture. Every mechanical device has been brought to its aid, and what once required a week's time and hard human toil, can now be accomplished almost in the twinkling of an eye.

With the growth of our agricultural area has come the birth of kindred industries—chief among them that of milling. In an agricultural country one is necessary to the other—the mills to the farmer and the farmer to the mills. There is no class of manufacturers which administers so much to the necessities of the people as the makers of bread stuffs, and there is no more enterprising class of men than those belonging to the industry. We use the word "enterprising" in its truest sense, for what development of enterprise has made greater progress than theirs? Only a short time ago, so short, that it is within the recollection of our growing generations—the millstones, which seem to us so primitive, were the only means of reducing wheat to an article of food. How does this compare with the roller process, by means of which the output is doubled in one-half the space of time and is of so much better quality? All this has been accomplished and more; and no review of our city's industries and commercial attractions would be complete without the mills owned by Price & Topping.

In 1891 the mill was purchased by W. Eliason, C. T. Westcott and T. W. Eliason, and known as the old Whaland Grist Mill. In 1898 it was purchased by its present owners, Price and Topping. Under this new regime many costly improvements have been added, and the latest approved machinery put in at a cost of $2,500, and it is now one of the most modern mills on the Eastern Shore. It has a capacity of 30 barrels daily and the output finds a ready local market. Messrs. Price & Topping own two other mills in the county, located respectively at St. Paul's Church and near Buck Neck. The Chestertown mill is under the immediate direction of Prof. Topping, and it has been so successfully managed and its product is of such a high standard that it requires the mill to be operated to its full capacity in order to supply home consumption.

Prof. Topping is a native of the Old Dominion State, came to Kent early in 1879, and taught school at Corey's for three years, after which time he went to Philadelphia, and was book-keeper for a large firm in 1885, of the Quaker City. He returned to Kent county and accepted the Lankford school, which he resigned in '91 for the principalship of the Chestertown public school, and filled this position until 1897, when he resigned to superintend his increasing business interests. Prof. Topping's management of the Chestertown public school was one of progress. He employed the latest approved ideas on modern education, which received the plaudits of the public. He is a courteous, pleasant gentleman and is recognized as one of Chestertown's most influential and cultured citizens.

BEDFORD ROE.

OUR POPULAR SHERIFF.

The execution of the orders of the court involves marked characteristics on the part of the incumbent. He must be a man of fidelity to his duties, fearless in their discharge and of sufficient education to perform the clerical part of his work. Mr. Bedford Roe is the embodiment of all these qualifications with the additional one of well merited popularity. He has conducted his office with fidelity to the interests involved, with satisfaction to his constituency and honor to himself and the democratic party which elected him.



Mr. Roe was born in Middle Neck, Cecil County, in 1846 and in 1873 came to Kent county and has from the beginning been recognized as a representative and an influential citizen. In the campaign of 1885 he was a candidate for a county commissionership, it being the first political fight in which his personal interests were directly involved, and was elected. Mr. Roe was again a candidate for county commissioner in 1895 but was defeated in reaching his aspiration but it was a glorious defeat as he fought bravely and demonstrated his capacity for work as an organizer and paved the way for his nomination for sheriff and his triumphant victory in '97. He has filled the requirements of his office with tact and administrative ability, performing his delicate duties with consideration and fidelity to the trust imposed.

CHESTERTOWN'S NEW ICE FACTORY.

Equipped With All Modern Appliances and Under Progressive Management.

R. G. NICHOLSON, PROP.

This progressive town of ours could not well omit the new ice factory from her list of enterprises, and the above plant compares favorably with any plant on the Eastern Shore, would even do credit to a much larger city, and bespeaks for the management the enterprising spirit of the end of the century business man. But few people realize the labor involved in an establishment of this kind, or the machinery required to facilitate operations. For years and years consumers of ice were satisfied to use the product gathered from the lakes, rivers and stagnant pools, little dreaming that therein lay the germs of epidemics which have ravaged our larger cities, and which have spread to such an extent that the health authorities of New York prohibited the use of the ice from the Hudson river below Albany and above Onondago lake. Chestertown is far ahead of many cities on the Eastern Shore in having the fine modern plant of Mr. Robert G. Nicholson located here. Manufactured ice is of necessity purer than the natural product, as re-distilled water, and no other, enters into its composition. The various processes of distilling, re-distilling and boiling, must necessarily preclude all possibility of the germs which lurk in the natural formation of ice. The product of the Chestertown ice factory is absolutely pure, as only condensed steam is used in its manufacture. The closest investigation has proven that ice so manufactured must, of necessity, be pure, and no consumer should for a moment use any other. Aside from hygienic reasons, manufactured ice is superior in solidity and perfect crystalization for, frozen as it is at a lower temperature, it is more compact and will thus last longer than the natural article, while it has the further advantage of being made in uniform blocks of convenient size.

The first ice plant that Chestertown possessed was in 1889, costing the substantial sum of ten thousand dollars. This plant was destroyed by fire in 1895, but rebuilt in 1896 by the former owner, Mr. Robert G. Nicholson. The plant was not sufficient to supply the increasing demand for local consumption, hence Mr. Nicholson sold the old plant and it was shipped to Centreville.

The building of the new factory is of the latest design, strong and substantially built, and is located near the depot. It is modern in all its arrangements, the machinery the most approved, and equipped with every appliance to increase the maximum of quality at a minimum cost. Its capacity is twenty thousand lbs. daily, with a refrigerating capacity of thirty thousand lbs.

Mr. Nicholson is one of Kent county's most substantial and progressive business men, active in promoting new enterprises, and thus enhances the industrial and material prosperity of the community by giving employment to labor and supplying the county with its most essential requirements. He owns a beautiful farm two miles from Chestertown, which is under prime cultivation, forty-two acres being devoted to a nursery which embraces all the different varieties of peach, apple, cherry, pear trees, and berries grown in this section. Mr. Nicholson is a native of Kent county, and is the pioneer peach man of the Eastern Shore, and the fame and success that has attended the introduction and culture of peaches in this locality is due greatly to his individual efforts. He is a man who is held in high esteem, respected by his neighbors, and progressive in all his business undertakings. Such a man is a valuable factor to any community. He is relieved of many responsibilities by his two sons, Harry and Horace, who are just reaching manhood's estate. They are accommodating, attentive to business details and discharge all their duties with care and ability. The Chestertown Ice Company is now ready to supply patrons and orders by mail or wire from any point in this section will receive the most prompt attention. The people of Chestertown and of this section should show their appreciation of Mr. Nicholson's enterprise by giving him their entire patronage and thus encourage and sustain a deserving home industry.

SASH FACTORY.

Proprietors, W. S. and A. M. Culp, Contractors and Builders.

They Manufacture Building Material of all Kinds—Their Factory is Equipped With the Latest Appliances to Facilitate This Work.

Every race shows that there is inherent in man the instinct of building. He shares it with the beaver, the ant and the bird. It exists in him as the power of language exists in him, and like that, as like any one of his native powers, it may be developed or it may remain undeveloped. So long as it remains in this merely rudimentary condition, serving man's necessary physical needs and those alone, it is not a fine art, and it may be stated that building only becomes architecture and enters in the reign of art when man begins to decorate his shelter in order to gratify a craving for beauty, a love for proportion.

Among the leading contracting and building firms in this city who have done so much to beautify Chestertown in the erection of handsome buildings and beautiful dwelling houses within the past fifteen years, the name of W. S. Culp, builder and contractor, is surely worthy of mention. In the many years that Mr. Culp has been in this business he has built some of the finest and most comfortable dwellings which grace the county. His methods are all modern and up to date and he is ably assited by his son A. M. Culp who has been associated with his father as partner since 1893, and is a natural born genius, having superintended the erection of some handsome buildings in Baltimore and elsewhere. He prepares plans and specifications, all kinds of buildings, which are equal to professional architects, and has solved the complex problem of how best to utilize the minimum of space with a maximum of accommodation and beauty of design. They own and operate one of the neatest and best equipped planing mills in Kent county. They manufacture all kinds of building material, i.e., frames, doors, sash, blinds, brackets, mantels, turning stairway, and in fact, everything that is used in the construction of a house. Their prices are the most reasonable to be found in the contracting and building line. If you want to build a nice neat house, at a moderate cost, or a spacious mansion at a higher price, or have some repairing to do on your buildings, call on W. S. & A. M. Culp before going elsewhere. You will find their prices astonishingly low. All their work is guaranteed to give satisfaction and every provision in the contract is carried out to the letter.

Mr. W. S. Culp was born in the "Keystone" State, where he learned the carpenter's trade, and has more than forty years' experience in the building line in Kent county. He came to Chestertown in 1883, and was employed by Joseph Turner for about ten years, or until he had established his present business. Mr. Culp is a conscientious gentleman, worthy of the high regard in which he is held in this community, and is a member of the M. P. Church. A. M. Culp is a member and director of the M.P. orchestra, popular in social circles, and enjoys the friendship and confidence of our people.

Mr. W. S. Culp also conducts a coal and wood yard, where he handles all the different grades of hard and soft coal. Before laying in your winter supply see Mr. Culp.

BASKET FACTORY.

Most Important Industry of Chestertown—Gives Imployment to Two Hundred People—Pay Roll One Thousand Dollars Weekly.

CRANE & TRENCHARD, PROPS.

Fortunate, indeed, is the city in which such an important enterprise as the above elects to make a permanent home. Chestertown is to be congratulated on securing this valuable industry, and the benefit it has been and will continue to be to our town, cannot be estimated in dollars and cents alone. It gives us an added prestige with the great outside world, and carries the name of our city into quarters where it would otherwise remain unknown. It gives employment to two hundred men, and thus benefits every business man in Chestertown. In conjunction with its affairs, it attracts the eyes of hundreds to this popular "gem city," and proves it worthy of recognition. In ways too numerous to mention this extensive industry has been of benefit to us, and it must receive its deserved share of prominence in our Industrial Edition.

Messrs. Crane & Trenchard Bros. purchased the small nucleus of this immense factory in 1896 from Joseph Turner, which was then conducted as a lumber yard and saw mill. The old premises have been swallowed up and have completely lost their identity by additions built to the old structure. The buildings now devoted to manufacturing and storing baskets covers a floor space of nearly twenty-eight thousand square feet, and the productive capacity of the plant has been doubled within the past few years. Operating the factory to its full capacity, they can now turn out daily 15 thousand baskets and covers, fifty thousand berry baskets, and several thousand crates The main factory, fifty by eighty feet in dimensions, is equipped with steam pipes for heating, steaming and drying purposes. The saw mill which manufactures the material for the product, is modern in all of its equipments, while the machinery employed in the factory is of the most approved pattern, and the company is ever on the alert to avail themselves of any and everything that will facilitate labor, and at the same time maintain the high standard of producing baskets that competition has failed to equal. The personnel of the firm are Curtis E. Crane, William E. and Thomas G. Trenchard, all of whom are well known on the Eastern Shore. Mr. Crane is a native of Queen Anne's county. In early life he engaged in business in Baltimore with his brother under the firm name of Crane Bros., dealers in carpets. They successfully conducted this business for many years, until 1892, when they retired, Mr. Crane buying a country estate in Talbot county, where he resided until he became connected with his present enterprise. He is a thorough business man, and the numerous details which pass under his management are disposed of in a diplomatic and business-like method, as many delicate questions arise in directing an army of employees. The name of Trenchard is synonymous with that popular game, foot-ball, on both continents. Both brothers were educated at Princeton College. Mr. Thomas Trenchard was the captain of the invincible foot-ball team of Princeton, and is recognized as one of the greatest coachers and trainers in the United States, his services being in demand at fabulous prices. The people of Chestertown owe faithful allegiance to this industrial institution, as employment is given to our citizens. Vast sums of money are drawn hither, and placed directly into circulation by this enterprising firm.

GEORGE E. NOLAND,

Our Popular Representative and Champion of the People and Candidate for Re-election.

Every city has its different types and classes. Some men there are who seem born to success, and no effort is required to attain it; others must ever walk among the common file of humanity, content to be directed by a superior mind; others again, are ever fighting the tide of adversity, while some others, year by year, are silently but steadily nearing the success which shall crown their efforts—when their faithful service to humankind, and honest living, are to receive reward from their fellow-men. Among the latter happy, conservative class, do we find the gentleman whose name captions our article—Mr. George E. Noland. Born at Sassafras, Kent county, forty-two years ago, he is a striking example of what industry coupled with good sense, can accomplish in life's struggle for position and recognition by the world. Mr. Noland's education was acquired in the public schools of the neighborhood, and with these meagre advantages and studying at leisure hours, he succeeded in acquiring a good common school education. His business career began in 1883 when he engaged in mercantile business at Fairlee, conducting it for a short time. Selling out, he opened a store at Lankford, and conducted it for a number of years. Fifteen years ago he became identified with beautiful "Tolchester," and has superintended this popular resort, which has grown fairer and better with the succeeding years. Mr. Noland is a descendant of the people and is closely identified with their interests both by common inheritance and sympathy, and has thousands of loyal followers among the bread-winners of Kent county. Mr. Noland's renomination to succeed himself in the House of Representatives is another mark of confidence in which he is held by the party and the people, and his Legislative career will no doubt be endorsed by the public stamp of approval by being returned to Annapolis by a



large majority. Mr. Noland's record as a loyal democrat is too well known to be retold in this brief sketch, and his acceptation of political trust was out of consideration for the earnest solicitation of friends, as he has never aspired for public office. He is a friend of the poor, a loyal democrat, and possesses all the attributes and virtues of the American citizen.

If Mr. George E. Noland is re-elected, which he no doubt will be, he will give to the people of Kent county, what he has given them—another clean and faithful term.

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