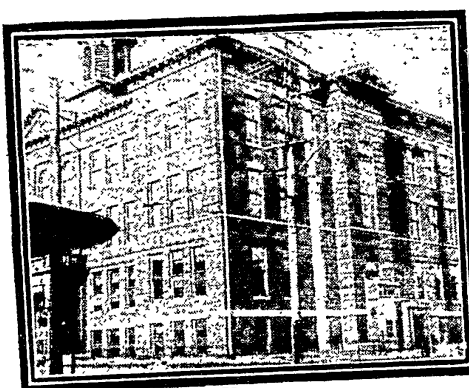
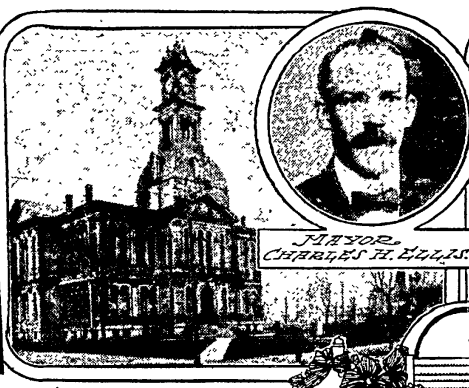


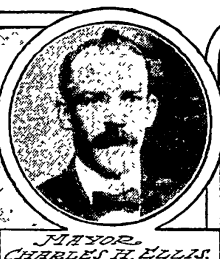
CAMDEN, NOW EIGHTY YEARS OLD, IS PROUD OF ITS WONDERFUL GROWTH



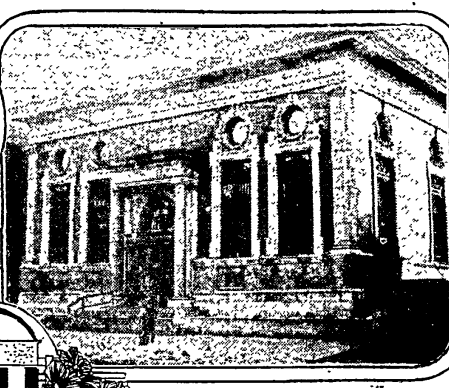
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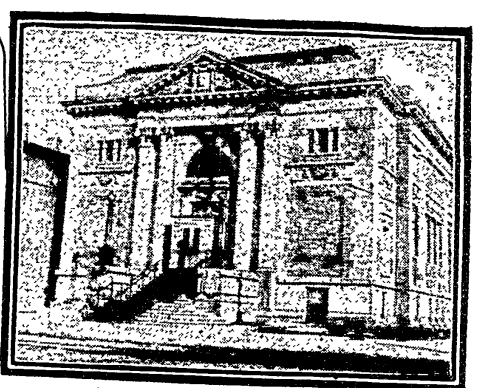
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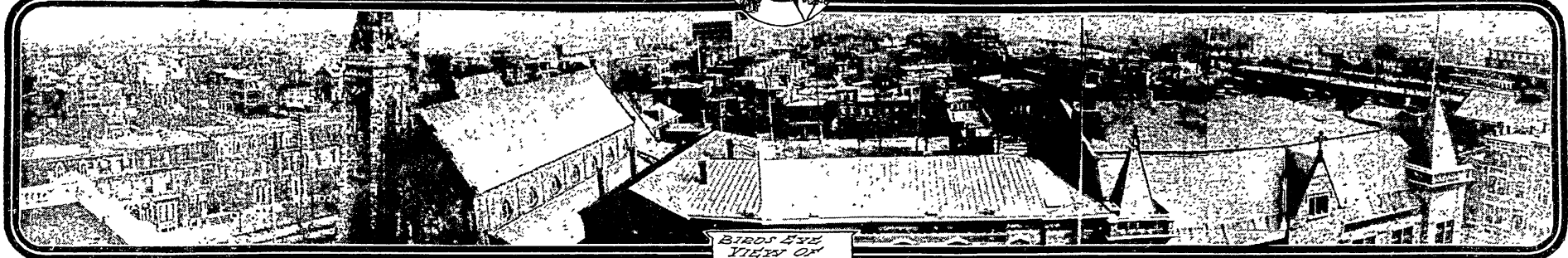
MAYOR
CHARLES H. ELLIS



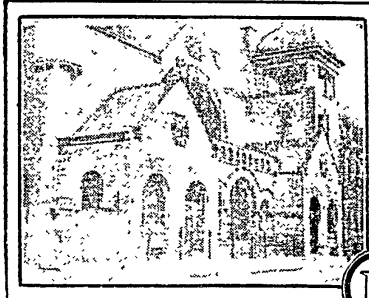
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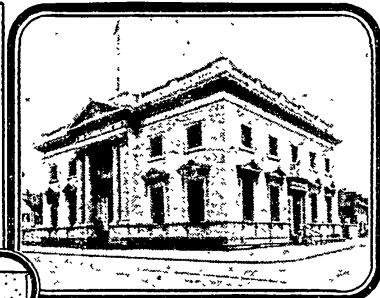
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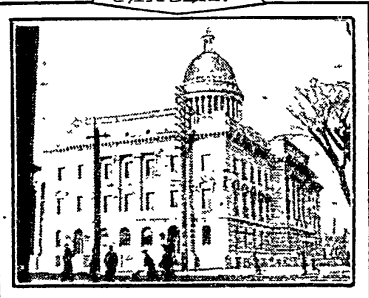
BIRD'S EYE
VIEW OF
CAMDEN



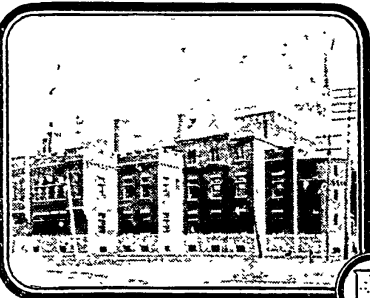
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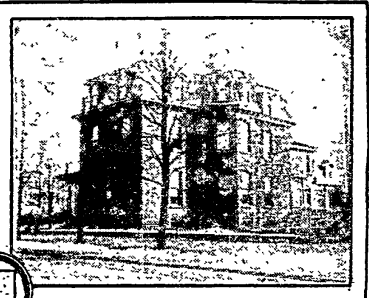
FEDERAL BUILDING



COURT HOUSE



ARMORY



WAYLAND A. ELLIS
RESIDENCE

City on Saint Valentine's Day, Will Observe the Anniversary of Its Incorporation---Some Facts and Figures Concerning "Slow Town" Across the River

EIGHTY years will have passed on Friday, February 14, since Camden became an incorporated city. It is not now the citizens are looking back over those years and recalling with a pardonable pride the epochs that have made it a community of homes, of industry and of clean, progressive government. Lately, Camden has comparatively few more blunders and in consequence it has always been in the van of the modern spirit that means so much to American municipalities. With an energetic executive, with a re-juvenated Board of Trade composed of the representative business men of the city and containing residents who are anticipating an even greater Camden, the future bids well.

Although there was a settlement in what is now Camden late in the seventeenth century, it did not discard its raddling clothes until long years after. It was in 1828 that the 1142 persons who made up the district bounded by the Delaware river and Sixth street and Cooper and Line streets concluded that they should become an incorporated community. This was brought about principally as a result of the crowds that crossed the river from Philadelphia on Sundays and did pretty much as they pleased to the discomfort and anger of the townspeople. No bill was prepared, and on February 14, of that year, the Legislature adopted it, thus making Camden the proud possessor of a charter. Samuel Lansing was elected the first Mayor.

No War, No Good
This was all very well, but Camdenites feared over the fact of being a part of Gloucester county. There were those who thought they should have a county of their own, but Gloucester strenuously objected to having such a goodly portion sliced off for the benefit of the new city. Under the leadership of Captain John W. Mickle, however, the Camdenites carried the war into the Legislature and as a result Camden county was created. After this matter went along smoothly until 1848, when the question arose as to which community should be the county seat. Camden was opposed by Long-Coming, now Berlin. Matters waxed exceedingly warm, the rivalries aiding Long-Coming, the cities Camden.

Even yet old residents speak of the strenuous times in awesome whispers. Finally the question was decided at a special election and Camden lost. Possessed of that persistency that has made much for the success of the city, the residents did not give up by any means. They carried the fight to the Legislature and a vote was ordered. This time Camden was the victor. The farmers made all sorts of charges, but Camden remained the county seat and at present the wisdom of that selection is apparent.

Now for Town Hall
So soon as Camden became an incorporated city Mayor Lansing and his councilors decided that there must be some municipal meeting place. At first the Town Hall was located on the second floor of Richard Tetter's store at Third and Market streets. But in 1829 City Council voted to set aside \$2500 to build a City Hall, courthouse and jail. This was located on Federal street, below Fifth, where stood the old market, burned down several years ago. Many ex-

have already proved their value. As to crime there is little of it except of a petty nature and when the occasion arises the majesty of the law is upheld in such a manner as to give the impression that nowhere in the State is there a better explanation of the declaration that "justice moves swiftly" than in Camden.

And Camden Water
Camden's water is admittedly without a peer. It is drawn from artesian wells and every day over 15,000,000 gallons of it is sent through the mains. This comes from a \$600,000 plant at Morris Station, which is always hailed as "Camden's greatest asset." Plans are under way now to augment this plant. The city's first water plant was established after considerable controversy in 1874 at Pasmora. The Delaware River water was pumped through the mains for years. In consequence the harvest of death from typhoid fever was great. In the nineties the contagion manifested itself in such an alarming manner that the artesian plant was proposed. It was not put in operation until 1898, but the

change in the water supply was at once apparent in the better health of the city. While a hundred new cases of typhoid fever within a month prior to that time was by no means unusual, subsequent to the installation of the new supply, less than half a dozen were reported within a like period. Last year there were but 28 cases, of this disease and most of them were traced to other cities.

Camden has many miles of paved streets. All the principal thoroughfares are asphalted as a result of an agitation that began over a decade ago. Only lately the principal outlets of the city were ordered paved with that material—Federal street from Cooper Creek to Twenty-fifth street, Haddon avenue from Line street to Ferry avenue, and Broadway from Emerald street to Newton Creek.

The Public Schools
Then there are the schools, which are educating an army of nearly 12,000 children. Four additional modern school buildings were recently completed, making in all thirty-four, with a commodious high school. As has already been shown by The Inquirer in a previous article, Camden's educational system is of the highest order, which has been demonstrated repeatedly by the pupils winning first prizes at contests in exhibitions of national prominence.

Camden is a city of churches. Within its confines there are close to a hundred churches and missions of all denominations. In consequence of this comparatively great church-going habit, the city is peculiarly strict on Sabbatharian questions. This was evidenced a year or so ago when certain dealers sought to sell on Sunday as on other days of the week. In consequence the laws were enforced to such an extent that the Sundays, for several months, saved the Sunon Pure New England sabbath of Puritan days.

When Andrew Carnegie was adding himself of his wealth some years ago, establishing libraries in many cities of the country, it was suggested that he be asked to contribute something for the benefit of the book-loving public of Camden. For months this matter hung fire, but Dr. Dowling Benjamin finally brought the subject to an issue by appealing to the Scotch ironmaster. As a result it was not long before \$100,000 was sent to Camden with which to build a library with the proviso that the city expend \$10,000 annually for its maintenance. This was agreed upon and a structure was erected at Broadway and Line streets that is not only pleasing to the eye because of architectural embellishments, but also on account of the thousands of volumes that are circulated to over 18,000 men, women and children.

City of Homes
Camden has approximately over 20,000 homes. These are of all kinds, from the more pretentious structures in which the wealthy reside to the humble but homelike dwellings in which the great bulk of the inhabitants live. And with the coming spring hundreds of additional dwellings will be erected in the outlying districts.

There is also a public park which is being slowly but surely developed, and if Mayor Charles H. Ellis has his way there will be several squares, a recreation pier or two and beautiful shade trees throughout the city. He proposes to have one day each year set aside to be known as the "Day of the City Beautiful" devoted to making Camden better from an artistic and orderly standpoint.

As to Camden's business interests, they are legion. With a river front of several miles backed by the Cooper creek there is ample natural provision for industrial concerns of a varied character. A new era is heralded from the fact that the creek is to be deepened by the government so that craft of fairly deep draught may use it. Already a number of industrial manufacturing plants have situated their intention of locating along the banks of the stream and before many years there promises to be one complete chain of industries.

Just a Review
At the annual gathering of the Board of Trade last week the value of some of the city's manufactures was expressed something in this wise: "Camden has within its border a population of nearly 100,000, and shipbuilding firms that can either supply a launch or the greatest battleship; the largest lace curtain manu-

factory in America; a talking machine that speaks every known language; iron works that make enough pipe to girdle the earth; leather manufacturers that furnish from all parts of the globe; the largest furniture house, whose products reach to the Philippines; banks and trust companies whose resources are not affected by panics; ironing works, which manufacture one-half the country's whole product; a plant whose kitchens annually make enough soup to float all the vessels built in our shipyards; a nickel works, which furnishes Uncle Sam with material for shot machines; a department store, whose experiment has proved a decided success; pen works, which produce two-thirds of the pens used in the world; an expanded metal works—the material produced there will stretch from Maine to Texas and its mills rival the largest."

So, with the thousands of homes, its scores of industries, its charitable institutions and the manifold creations of a modern civilization, Camden is a city which is not slow, which is always in the van of progress and municipal improvement in all lines of endeavor.

Camden made steady increases in its population from the time of its incorporation until 1856. Up to that year there seemed to be every evidence that it would soon be a city of many thousands. Hundreds had moved across the river and come from distant lands to settle there, but a catastrophe occurred on March 17, 1856, which retarded its growth. While crossing the river, the ferryboat New Jersey, crowded with passengers, caught fire. The river was full of ice and there was little opportunity of giving aid. In consequence everyone perished. Even yet that tragedy is often referred to by the older residents with horror.

This made many return to Philadelphia and caused others to fear going to Camden because of the fear of crossing the Delaware. Then came the panic of 1857 which also had a deterrent effect. But better times were coming for the little city and when more opportunity was given it by the revised charter of 1870, the population began increasing again. By 1880 there were over 40,000 men, women and children within the city's confines. In two decades this had more than doubled and now there is close to 100,000 inhabitants. With increasing territory, it only being a matter of time when Merchantville, Collingswood, Woodlynne, Haddonfield, Gloucester City and other communities will be absorbed, Camden will very soon have many thousands added.

Spirit of Progress
As to the city's government, there is everywhere in evidence a spirit of progress. Especially is this so with reference to the fire and police service. Concerning the former, Camden counts with pride to the fact that last year the fire losses did not exceed \$125,000. The present fire department is the outgrowth of the old volunteer organizations of nearly half a century ago. There were the Perseverance, the Niagara, the Wee-wee and other volunteer companies which did valiant service, but owing to the rivalry much valuable property was lost in sanguinary battles. In 1889 a paid fire department was created consisting of five commissioners, one fire marshal and two assistants. Thus was Camden among the first of New Jersey's towns to have men paid to fight the flames. Even that humble beginning grew the present force of nearly a hundred men under the direction of Chief Samuel Elford.

In the police department, under the direction of Chief Elvira A. Gravenor, there are 150 men, the outgrowth of a force of three men who protected forty years ago, the north, middle and south wards. Recently twenty-five men were added to the force, among them being several mounted men to look after the suburban sections of the city. These