

Flint Section of Area Almost City in Itself

Extending eastward from Stafford Square to the Watuppa Ponds lies "The Flint," sometimes called the East End, almost a city in itself.

A cosmopolitan area containing an estimated 40,000 population, it has its churches, schools, theaters, recreation grounds and a lively business section. Its stores compare with similar units in other sections, united in promotional purposes under the banner of the Flint Merchants Association.

The Flint can be described justly as a thriving community, capable of administering to economic needs of its residents without dependence on any other area of the city.

The growth of retail establishments in that section since the turn of the century has been consistent. Its business section extends from Stafford Square to the Narrows.

Practically all established businesses of the early 1900s have disappeared due to deaths. Their work was not in vain, however, as other hands held aloft the torch of progress and today the Flint enjoys a higher standing than most smaller cities of the Commonwealth.

Modern Retail Stores

Many old and familiar business landmarks have passed in the last half-century, but in their places have come modern retail establishments. One does not have to leave the Flint to fill any need of the family. Competition, while friendly, keeps merchants on their toes.

Residents of the Flint through the years have taken great pride in developing and expanding activities which tend towards comfortable living.

Fifty years ago the Flint was predominantly populated by the French, who came from Canada to seek employment in the textile industry.

Bringing with them the faith of their forefathers, their attention was first directed towards a place of worship. Out of that thought and desire, the beautiful Notre Dame de Lourdes Church came into existence.

Activities were centered around the church, and continue so to this

day. The spacious edifice provides spiritual well-being to a large number of communicants, also the parish affords educational advantages second to none in the city.

Into the same area came many from Great Britain, who established homes in the Flint and today are an integral part of the community.

The French and English arrivals were followed later by the Portuguese and Syrians, each nationality segregating itself in selected areas. As their numbers increased, the Espirito Santo and St. Anthony of the Desert Churches were erected to serve their needs. The several nationalities have been important factors in community progress.

The Irish were among early residents of the Flint and cooperation between the French, English and Irish during the early years is a source of great pride to oldtimers.

Numerous Churches

The Immaculate Conception Church, like the Notre Dame Church for the French, was the center of religious and social life for Irish residents.

Churches administering to other faiths were the Bogle Street Christian Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Haffards Street Primitive Methodist Church, Harrison Street Chapel, Quarry Street Methodist Church and the Quarry Street Synagogue.

In its entirety, the Flint embraced God-loving people who faithfully followed dictates of their hearts and minds.

With the major portion of the textile industry located in the Flint section, it was natural that the district grew rapidly. The textile plants furnished employment and new arrivals were desirous of living near relatives and friends.

How Area Got Name

The section derived the name of Flint from John D. Flint, one of the founders of the Flint Mills and a large holder of property in the area.

The Flint Mills were one of the early textile plants and it was natural result that the community

surrounding the plant took the name of the mill.

From early days it was "The Flint" and will probably remain so.