

Origin and History of the first and only organized efforts to build upon a permanent basis a Manufacturing Interest in Lockport.

Early in the month of June, 1858, a meeting was called at the American Hotel, signed by about twenty citizens, to consider the question of making the valuable water power of Lockport subservient to the advancement of the prosperity of the place. Several successive meetings followed, which resulted in the appointment of a committee to estimate the expense of a stone building for manufacturing purposes—to be constructed 50 by 100 feet, and four stories high—and to confer with the Hydraulic Company and obtain from them such proposition as they would make to persons who would unite in the construction of such a building. The gentlemen to whom this trust was committed, were Silas H. Marks, Daniel Price, Solomon B. Moore and Stephen Hopkins. On the second day of July they were met by Governor Hunt in a spirit as liberal as that which actuated the Building Company. He made the following proposition:

PROPOSITION OF THE LOCKPORT HYDRAULIC CO.

With a view to encourage the citizens of Lockport to erect a convenient and substantial stone building for manufacturing purposes The Lockport Hydraulic Company purpose to grant the necessary land and water to such Company as may first be formed for that object on the following terms and conditions:

1. A strip of land 40 feet wide, extending from Market street to Garden st., parallel to the east line of the Hydraulic Company's land, on Market street; the westerly line of said strip to commence at the upper or westerly end of the stone culvert across Garden street; and it is to be stipulated that no building shall be erected within one rod of the west line, or twenty feet of the east line of the land so granted; but the same shall be used as common passages by grantors and grantees.

2. So much water as shall be necessary to propel the machinery which may be placed in the building to be erected on said land by the lessees or grantees.

3. Said land shall be subject to the payment of a yearly rent equal to \$150 per annum for the water necessary to produce a twelve horse power, viz: at the rate of \$150 per twelve horse power for the quantity of water which may be required to propel the machinery which may be placed in such building. The water shall be used on a wheel of approved plan and construction, having reference to economy of power and convenient adaptation to the machinery to be used in said building. The water is to be drawn in such a manner as to use the whole available fall on said premises, on one wheel. In framing the grant the water shall be described and fixed by cubic inches, and in case doubts should arise on this point the question shall be determined, and the size of the aperture established by a disinterested and competent hydraulic engineer, to be selected and agreed upon by both parties. The rent shall not commence till the building is completed and manufacturing operations commenced therein, and from that time shall be paid semi-annually.

4. The grantees shall proceed to erect and finish a substantial stone building on said premises, as soon as practicable, which building shall be at least four stories high, 50 feet wide and 100 feet long. A shaft shall be placed in said building, lengthwise, conveniently fixed for attaching machinery thereto, and the plan and arrangement of the building shall be conveniently adjusted for renting each floor to carry on a distinct branch of manufacturing business.

5. After being used, the water shall be conveyed by the lessees in a safe and proper manner, into the culvert made by the said Hydraulic Company, for returning surplus water into the Erie Canal, pursuant to the lease from the State of New York, convey said water into said culvert, when the gates are closed.

6. The lessees shall be allowed for two years from the commencement of manufacturing business in the building aforesaid, within which to ascertain and determine what quantity of water is required for said building, and they shall be entitled to a lease for such a quantity as they may deem necessary, not less than two nor more than eight twelve horse power. On the expiration of the two years they shall make their decision, whenever required to do so by the Hydraulic Company, and until that time shall pay for such quantity as they use.

8. The Hydraulic Company will agree that the Stock holders in the new company to be formed shall not be personally liable for the payment of rent or water, and that in case the building should be destroyed by fire, the rent shall be remitted for one year, in case the building shall not be sooner restored.

By order of the Board of Trustees of the Lockport Hydraulic Company.

July 2, 1858. W. HUNT, Pres't

This proposition, with the estimated expense, was submitted to the building association. The estimated cost of the proposed building—to be but four stories high—was fifteen thousand dollars. On the 6th of July Articles of Association were adopted and signed by most of the gentlemen present putting down the amount of stock they were respectively disposed to subscribe. Stock was subscribed with a public spirit highly commendable, by a large number of our citizens, within a few days.

A meeting of stockholders was then called, and the following gentlemen elected trustees: Hon. Hiram Gardner, Silas H. Marks, Hon. T. T. Flagler, S. Hopkins, James Jackson, Jr., John W. Steel and Ezra P. Wentworth.

By about the first of September the necessary amount of stock was subscribed, and the plan of the magnificent structure, now an ornament to our place, was adopted.

THE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

About three weeks since, an association was formed called the "Holly Manufacturing Company," with an investment of \$20,000, comprising the following Stockholders:

TRUSTEES—T. T. Flagler, Charles Keep, S. H. Marks, L. F. Bowen, G. W. Bowen.

OFFICERS—T. T. Flagler, President; Chas. Keep, Secretary and Treasurer.

STOCKHOLDERS—Gov. Hunt, Hon. T. T. Flagler, Charles Keep, S. H. Marks, Budsill Holly, L. F. Bowen, G. W. Bowen.

Among other branches of manufacture, we have alluded to the furnace to be immediately erected on the ground between the Hydraulic Canal and the railroad. About two thousand yards of earth has already been removed, and the building will, it is now believed be completed in about thirty days.