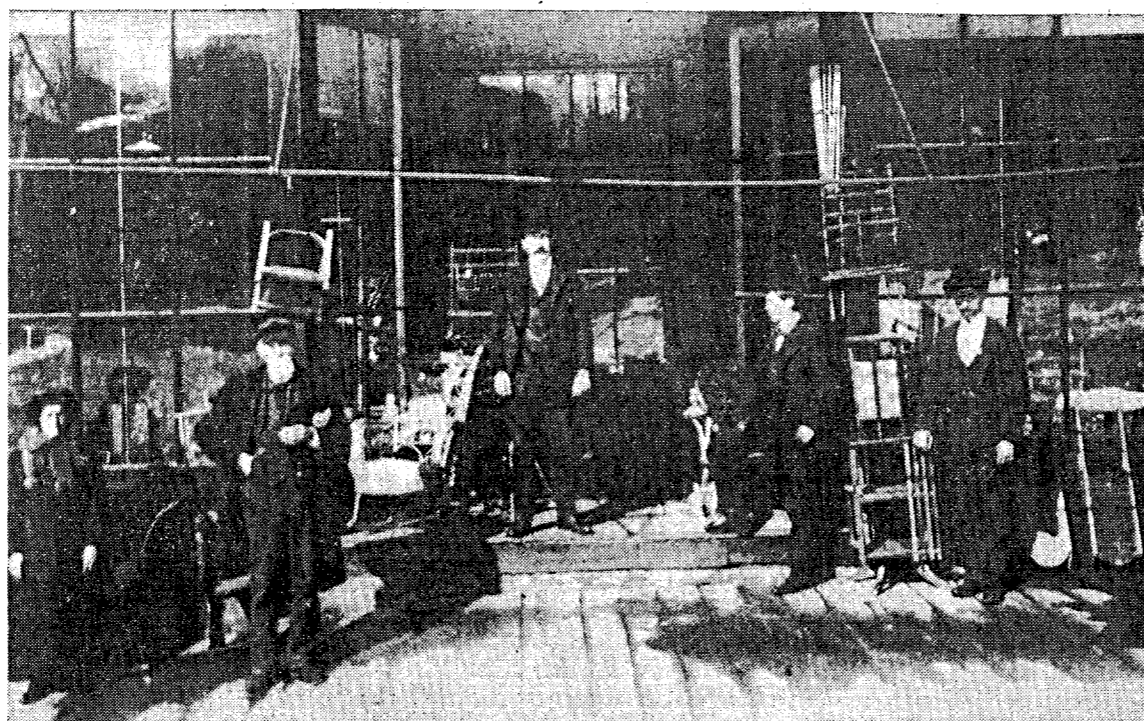


Houlton's First Furniture Store



This is the furniture emporium of S. H. Hussey, believed to be the first store of its kind to be established in Houlton about 70 or 80 years ago. The proprietor, S. H. Hussey is the white bearded man in the overcoat at the left. Others in the picture are not identifiable.

which were made, and all of these men and women demonstrated their interest in the

future of the school by putting up with unpleasant conditions until the new building was completed.

The Mansur residence, adjoining the campus, and the two acres of land surrounding it, were acquired in 1945. It furnished additional dormitory accommodations during the acute need for such space for housing students. It was also used for class rooms during the emergency.

Today it is fulfilling the useful purpose of a surprisingly well stocked library for the students, housing also the executive offices of the President and the other officers plus meeting rooms and as a center of social functions. It is considered particularly appropriate that it should be called the Hayes Library in honor of Roy M. Hayes.

With the destruction of Wording Hall, the athletic program at Ricker came to an abrupt halt. Inadequate though it was, the top floor of this building was the only space available for a basketball court. It was, some years earlier, practically the only place where regulation basketball could be played in Houlton until the old Houlton High School building on

of our armed forces who were enrolled for courses.

HIGHEST STUDENT BODY

This student body of the post war years was the high point for Ricker. During that period there was an undergraduate group of some 400 young men and young women who were instructed by a faculty of 18. When the school was started a century before, the faculty numbered one and the student body was but a handful of pupils.

At the Centennial exercises of the school in 1948 Justice Nathaniel Tompkins, a graduate of Ricker, and one time member of its faculty and a long time trustee, presented a history of the institution. He went to considerable pains to develop his material and from which presentation much of the facts herein contained, were drawn.

Although there are many excerpts from Justice Tompkins' history of Ricker delivered at the Commencement exercises in 1948, the 100th graduation of Ricker, one conclusion, near its close, stands out.

A DESERVED TRIBUTE

an appropriate and well deserved tribute to one who had given so many years of unselfish service to the school. Its delivery by a person of the integrity, respect and high probity of Justice Nathaniel Tompkins gave it a far greater depth of sincerity and warmth than if the same words had been uttered by a man of lesser stature.

ANOTHER CRISIS

In the few years since these centennial exercises were held, Ricker has once more been confronted with a crisis. The passing of the increased student body caused by war veterans completing courses under the G. I. bill, brought about a reduction in tuition income below the point where the books of the school could be kept in balance. The result has been the establishment of a deficit that various money raising efforts have thus far failed completely to wipe out.

The townspeople have responded generously to appeals for help. Several campaigns have been productive. The Rotary Club has undertaken the task of erasing \$32,000 of liabilities of the

school and has thus far contributed in excess of \$12,000 to their project.

LEGISLATIVE HELP

The last three legislatures have acknowledged the plight of Ricker to the extent that the county commissioners have been given permission to allocate \$10,000 a year for the past six years from the county treasury to the use of the school. This effort has been mainly designed, as have others, to keep the school functioning until such time as its student body may be increased to the number it can efficiently handle at which time a balanced budget should be assured.

George B. Barnes succeeded Fred L. Putnam as chairman of the board of trustees and the membership of the board has been somewhat enlarged with representatives in all of the larger towns of the county. On two occasions this group has shown its interest and its loyalty by assisting in money raising efforts to keep the doors of the institution open.

Ricker yet has a destiny to ful-

fill in the State of Maine. It is only a question of time when its facilities will be sorely needed by boys and girls unable to gain admission to other colleges. It is the dedicated responsibility of the community of Houlton to do everything possible to continue, uninterrupted, this long tenure of service. Ricker is this town's finest industry. No effort must be spared to keep it flourishing.

Mr. Harry Putnam who has been a successful teacher in Connecticut for two years, has resigned his position to enter upon the study of medicine. For this purpose he has entered the office of Dr. Williams.—Aroostook Times, July 19, 1888.

Philadelphians call it Borr Harbor, Chicagoans say Bahrr Harburr, and true, Yankees speak fondly of the present diplomatic headquarters as Bah Habbah . . . A few of us still call it Mount Desert.—Aroostook Times, Aug. 7, 1890.

THREE GENERATIONS...

81 YEARS

... IN THE SAME FAMILY
... IN THE SAME LOCATION

J. A. BROWNE CO.

MAIN STREET HOULTON



J.A. BROWNE & CO.

THREE GENERATIONS

Serving HOULTON FOLK ...



... for over three generations, the Riley family have been in the meat and grocery business, and serving the people of Houlton. It has been a pleasant association, and we have enjoyed every minute of it. We have made many friends during this time, and we are happy to express our appreciation . . . by saying "Congratulations HOULTON . . . on this your 150th birthday." . . .

We also say a job well done . . . to the Houlton Pioneer Times in its 100 years of service to Aroostook County.

C & G MARKET

Clayton Riley

C. & G. MARKEE

MAIN ST., HOULTON

Gerald Riley

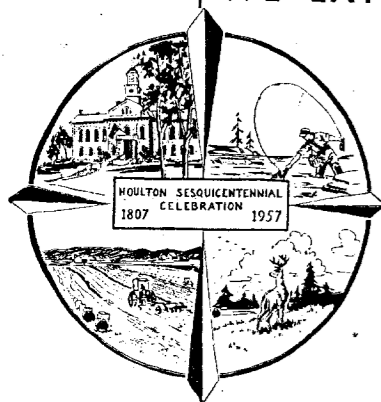
THE PAST
150 YEARS
HAS MARKED
GREAT



PROGRESS

... IN THE MODE OF TRAVEL
SO HAS THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY ...

WE AT VICTOR J. THOMPSON'S ARE
PROUD THAT **BUICK** and **PONTIAC**
HAVE BEEN PART OF HOULTON'S GROWTH.



WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES TO
HOULTON ON ITS
150th BIRTHDAY
and to the HOULTON PIONEER TIMES
... on your 100 Years of Service to
Aroostook County

VICTOR J. THOMPSON

Authorized SALES and SERVICE

BUICK — PONTIAC

MECHANIC STREET

HOULTON

Houlton High School building on School street was built and first occupied in 1915.

RICKER USES HHS GYM

This same facility was placed at the disposal of Ricker teams as was the gymnasium of Hodgdon High School and space at the Old Armory on Water street, at best suitable only for practice.

Fred L. Putnam served the school in various capacities longer than any other person who has been connected with it. He became a member of the board of trustees in 1925 and was elevated to president of Ricker in 1938. His official service ended in 1952.

He immediately became the key figure in the events of that critical era. In addition to the prominent part he played in the replacing of the old Wording Hall with the new, of the solution of the manifold problems which the conditions of the times created, he had also the problem of finding in some way the means to provide the gymnasium that not only Ricker, but also the Town of Houlton, then so sorely needed.

The walls of Ricker were bulging with students. An outlet for their physical energy through a complete physical education program stood at the top of the institution's priority list.

GYMNASIUM SERIOUS NEED

The building of an adequate gymnasium had long been one of the cherished projects of the school. Now the need, born of a disastrous fire, became even more acute. At just about this time the Lanham Act previously enacted by the United States Congress, was amended by Public Law 697, under the terms of which Chairman Putnam and his colleagues on the board saw their chance. A grant of \$154,000 was secured for Ricker, under this law, in 1947, to be used for the purpose of erecting a new gymnasium.

In addition, the school, through Board Charman Putnam, sought and received a large amount of surplus war material that went into the construction of the gymnasium and which contributed to other facilities of the school, as well.

Naturally, this grant of Federal funds was not without its obligations insofar as the school itself was concerned. The stipulation was that Ricker should assume the responsibility for raising \$40,000. Stipulated, too, was the requirement that \$6000 be available annually for maintenance. All of this was possible for Ricker to receive because, in the school were 170 former members

A DESERVED TRIBUTE

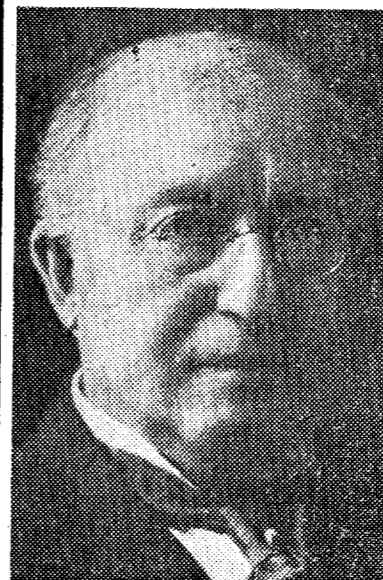
He said, in part: "We have a host of friends and more than two thousand sons and daughters of Ricker. We have marched to the aid of America for a century, in the classroom and on the battlefield. Through the sacrifice of our students we have sought to preserve free government throughout the world. We have no mineral wealth in our hills. Our wealth is not found in pit or mine, but in the youth of our state. In our sphere and according to our ability we should use our utmost endeavors to furnish for those who attend the school, the best education it is possible for us to provide, based on Christian character. Ricker is a training camp for good citizenship. It is the earnest desire of those now connected with the school that the youth of this State, and particularly Aroostook County, may have the opportunity to obtain a durable education at not too great a financial sacrifice. We know that Dr. Ricker would approve of this goal."

It was at these same Commencement exercises that deserved tribute was paid to the part that Fred L. Putnam of the class of 1900, assisted by the late A. M. Stackpole, a member of the class of 1901, played in guiding the destinies of Ricker successfully through those troublous times. As Justice Tompkins phrased his comments, "They have guided the school through financial shoals for many years by applying sound business methods. They have borne the brunt of the latest struggle with adversity in the history of the school. Through their joint efforts, ably aided by the senators and representatives of the County and a sympathetic Maine legislature, a grant of \$50,000 from the State of Maine was made available to finish (new) Wording Hall.

PUTNAM GYM NAMED

"To Mr. Putnam in large measure is due the credit for this gymnasium. For two years he has devoted his attention to securing and erecting the building. He has travelled in the interest of the enterprise thousands of miles and at his own expense. He has secured by his vigilance thousands of dollars worth of equipment for the school building at slight or little cost to the school. In honor of his untiring labor and deep interest in the welfare of the school the Trustees have decided it fitting that this gymnasium be named, Putnam Gymnasium."

This action of the trustees was



J. A. BROWNE



P. L. RIDEOUT



Mrs. R. L. ERVIN



R. L. ERVIN

We Are Proud

To have been a part of serving the residents of this area for the past 81 years . . . to have been part of Houlton for over half of its 150 years . . . to have been so fortunate as to make so many friends in so many families . . . to have been able to serve you over these many years, and we look forward with pride to serving you in the future.

We Congratulate . . .

We pause at this time to extend our best wishes to the Town of Houlton on this its 150th BIRTHDAY . . . and wish you well for another 150 years

We extend our best wishes . . . to "Bunny" Esters and the Pioneer Times on this your 100th Birthday . . .