

Birds-Eye View of the City of Virginia Taken in 1905



This picture is valuable as showing the growth of the city of Virginia in the last eight years. So changed is Virginia today that few people would recognize it as a picture of the city.

coal can be shipped by water. The cranks will get busy, and iron and steel will be manufactured without the use of a pound of coal, and then will Virginia become a great city.

Right at our gates we have the raw material; within a stone's throw we have the power which will make that raw material take the form of finished product. Is it then unreasonable to expect that in the near future the experiments now going on of changing iron ore into iron and steel by means of electricity will be a reality?

And when that day comes, Virginia will not only be the Queen city of the Mesaba, but also the great manufacturing and industrial center of the empire of the northwest.

We have now four railroads connecting us with the great lakes and the markets of the east and Europe; we have two connecting us with the Pacific coast and the immense territories lying between us and the far west. Empires which have barely started in the building, where millions and millions of dollars worth of the products we have in abundance will be required and utilized every coming year. Not always shall we be carrying coal to Newcastle; not always shall we labor to thwart the scheme of things as established by wise Providence.

Our mineral resources are unlimited; we have only begun scratching in the surface, and ten years operation has revealed to us that instead of exhausting our resources we have only explored to lay them bare for future.

These advantages, with our natural advantages, will draw capital; men with modest sums to be invested will be attracted, and sanitary up to date dwelling houses will spring up.

JUST SO.

"Society has little use for a man when his cash is gone."

"No; but while his money holds out to burn, the vilest sinner may return."—Judge.

CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR IS LIVE BUSINESS MAN

Michael Boylan, Progressive Virginian Made His Own Future in Queen City.

FORMERLY NEWSBOY IN MICHIGAN CITY

Has Been Member of City Council for Seven Years and for Past Two Has Served as President—Came to Virginia as Working Plumber and Success Is Tribute to Energy.

Michael Boylan, of whom it is softly whispered that his friends, who are many, are bound to make him the next mayor of Virginia, wishes all to know that though he would consider it a great honor to be thus chosen the chief officer of our fine city, he is yet mindful of the fact that people need him for something else as well.

M. Boylan & Co., are in the plumbing and heating business, and in real earnest about it. Mike is not like the German girl spoken of by her friend, "I have looked for her everywhere and couldn't find her all over." You can look for Mike everywhere and find him all over. True, like a good Irishman, he manages to spare a little of his time for politics, but that is resting with him. He wants jobs, putting in heating and all branches of plumbing, and he wishes people to know that he understands his business; that he is not too indolent to do the work right, and that though he believes that the laborer is worthy of his hire, he wants no man's money unless he gives full value therefor.

Among the many important jobs which Mr. Boylan's firm have done

in the city and vicinity, may be mentioned the heating and the plumbing in the court house, in the postoffice and in the new First National Bank building. These jobs were not given to him because he was a good fellow, but because the people who let them had confidence in the firm of M. Boylan & Co., because they knew that the work would be done quickly and well.

Mr. Boylan also superintended and installed the water and sanitary and storm sewer systems in Mountain Iron, which place though the place is small, was quite a job, and it was done, as all others, to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

"Mayor or no mayor," says Mike, "I am in the plumbing and heating business; it's on that I depend for my living, and I don't expect to ever make a cent in politics."

But will he run? Yea, my friends, and yea once more; he will run like a scared rabbit. It's about the only time that he will run, when he is put on a ticket for some place to help the city along.

Oh no, he won't run because he's afraid, nor will he run because he thinks he's the only pebble on the beach; he will make the run because he feels that if elected he can and will fill the job acceptably and because he knows that his friends will make him run whether he will or not. It's about the only thing in which Mike can be bull-dozed, and his friends enjoy the novelty immensely.

The writer knows that while he is busy on this sketch Mike is on his way to Detroit, Michigan, to visit his relatives, and it will be put in type before he returns. Of course, there will be Erin go brag, or words to that effect when he returns, but it will be time enough to meet the trouble when it comes. Come what will he shall have a write-up, and it will not be in the milk and water style either.

Mike Boylan was born in a log cabin in the state of Wisconsin, and from what the writer has learned from his friends, there were no silver spoons lying about the cabin at the time of his birth. In fact, after he grew old enough to wear pants, it was often a serious question of whether the unmentionables could be supplied. His parents afterwards moved to Kalamazoo, Mich., where Mike learned his A B C; the manly art of self defense, and several other things that come to the boy of poor parents. There is a general impression that a man who springs from the common people will, if successful in life, become arrogant and overbearing, but that is an exception and not a rule, and Mike Boylan does not belong to the exception.

He became a newsboy as soon as he was old enough to stand up, and passed through the various stages in that line, known only to the boys themselves. Eleven years ago he came up on the range and worked in Hibbing, Chisholm and Eveleth, as a plumber. Afterwards he came to Virginia and worked in the same capacity for Harry George, and four years ago started the business now known as M. Boylan & Co., located at 303 Cleveland avenue, next to fire hall.

Mr. Boylan has been a member of the Virginia common council seven years, and has been the president of that body the last two years. He must have made good, because when in the heat of passion he, with others, was recalled, he was re-elected by a

comfortable majority. Somehow, the people of the ward forgot that he was a democrat, at least the republicans and progressives did, and remembered that Mike had always been on the square.

Boylan is married, and though he may have offended some Irish girl by marrying a Swedish lass, Mike himself seems to be both happy and proud of his choice. They have two little Boylan's, one girl and a boy, and they are naturally both pretty and witty. (The writer here wishes to give voice to his own opinion on the matter, which is, that the easiest way



MICHAEL BOYLAN

to tame an Irishman is to marry him to a Swede.)

When some of the new light and water commission members wished to put off the day when the rates would be lowered to the small consumer, Mike got busy in the council, helping to pass a resolution to lower them at once. The people have learned that this means to put the heaviest burden on those who are the most able to bear them, and they appreciate such work and such men.

Speaking of Boylan's running propensity reminds the writer of the story told of an Irishman. Pat was running away from a ghost which had taken it into its bonhead to chase him. After he had run until he was sorely winded, he thought he had gotten rid of his ghostship and seated himself on a fallen tree to rest. Wiping his forehead he said to himself, "Be gorry, Pat, ould man, you did some fine sprinting this toime; that was some running, an Oi would loike to see any wan bate it." "Yes," said the ghost, who unknown to Pat had seated himself by his side, "and whin you have risted we will run some more."

Mike is Irish and he likes it. Sometimes an Irishman will do things that those who think they hate them must admire. The writer was told of an incident in Mike's career which shows his character and leaning, and it was told by the man who is in the habit of speaking the truth, and who claimed to know the facts.

It seems that some captain of industry in Virginia got a notion that it was necessary to build barracks for the state militia in the town. This was before the several corporations had discovered that it pays in the end to treat people as human beings. A strike was imminent or in progress, and this zealous captain wanted the militia close at hand. Mike was a councilman, and when the question

came before the council Mike was there with a big NO. "What, build barracks in our city for a lot of fellows who might be called upon to shoot down our citizens? No, never!" The barracks were not built and the corporations got along with grease better than with bullets.

Mike has also the agreeable habit of paying his men good wages, and as a councilman he has waged many a battle to raise the wages of the city employes. He is old fashioned enough to believe that the man who labors should have his just share of what he produces, and he's not afraid to say so, even when it touches his own pocketbook. He is an earnest and outspoken friend with his friends, and as an enemy he has the reputation of being a pretty hot potato. But even his enemies admit that he fights fair; if he doesn't like you he never tries to stab you in the back; he tells you his feelings right to your teeth, and he doesn't shed any tears back, as usual with those people.

Mike Boylan as a political factor is rather a puzzle. Men who swear they'll never support him today, are apt to be his warmest supporters tomorrow. And there you are. The forerunner of Mike's political horoscope in the same position as the old Irishman in the baseball grandstand. Speaking to himself, and to everybody within hearing, of a certain star, he said: "Will he hit the ball? Well, he might, he could, and thin—but phawat's the use av talking? Av course he will."

One thing is certain, politics or no politics, he will continue to be in the plumbing and heating business, and as a private citizen he will keep an eye on the people's servants.

With all his activities Mike has found time to do some reading, and naturally, his mind has broadened from coming in contact with the great writers of the world. He is neither a political nor a religious bigot, and the old rhyme about Dublin City does not apply to him.

Dublin City, there is no doubtin' Is th' greatest city upon the say; 'Tis there you'll hear O'Connell spoutin'

An lady Morgan brewin' tay. For it's th' capitol av the finest nation, Wid a charmin' peasantry on a fruitful sod; Foightin' loike divils for conciliation, An hatin' each other for th' love of God.

If the range had a few Mike Boylan's in the legislative halls of our great state, the question of county division would be soon settled, and it would not be dictated from the Wolvin building in Duluth either.

One thing is certain, if Mike is chosen mayor, the mayor of Virginia will be Michael Boylan, without an understudy, and absolutely free from dictation of self servers, though always open for suggestions that have a tendency to benefit all the people.

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Minnesota Adjustment Co., a Substantial Aid to Business Men of City of Virginia.

The Minnesota adjustment Company is a partnership, and was formed in Virginia, in April, 1912. The members of the firm are Frank Hughes, P. J. Sevenich and G. H. Bedlow, all of the city of Virginia.

There offices are located at No. 2 Matheson building, in the city of Virginia, and their business is conducted in thirteen towns on the Mesaba and Iron Range.

As their trade indicates, their business is adjusting accounts between merchants and their customers, and the collection of such accounts from the debtors.

They have on their books over 100 subscribers, all retail merchants, whose accounts they handle and for whom they collect, and in addition thereto, every such subscriber gets from the firm a credit rating list, which oftentimes is worth considerable to the merchant.

There are people who will owe, and who will pay when they can, and there are people who will not pay when they well could do so, and it's a good thing for the merchant to know

in which class to place a person who asks for credit at his store.

The aim of the Minnesota Adjustment company is to give the very best service to their clients, and to that end two men employed by them are continuously on the go, collecting and adjusting. Every store which is a subscriber is visited once every week for instructions, bills, etc.

The business has heretofore been so brisk in their line that although often requested to handle accounts for non subscribers, they have been compelled to refuse the handling of them.

In the first eleven months of their business they collected the sum of \$18,600.00 Not so bad for a start.

It is not the most pleasant business in the world, but people who are naturally honest and fair must pay their debts, and therefore, such concerns as the Minnesota Adjustment company is as much of a necessity in a community as any other legitimate business.

Any merchant wishing to become a subscriber may receive all necessary information to that end by addressing the Minnesota Adjustment company, Virginia, Minnesota.

THE SUCCESS OF FRANK E. SKARP

Reared on Carlton County Farm and Firm Believer in Future of Northern Minnesota.

Frank E. Skarp, whose place of business we find at No. 101, Mesaba avenue north, came to Virginia nearly four years since, and has in that time built up a large business in his line.

Mr. Skarp was born in the northern part of Finland, but while yet he was a babe, his parents decided to seek a new home in the land of the free. At the age of 2 years he came with his parents to Carlton county, where he grew up on a farm.

He has lived on the range the last 14 years, is married and the father of nine children, seven of whom are now living, and five attending our public schools.

Mr. Skarp is of great help to the Finnish people, being conversant with the Finnish language as well as the English, in speech, reading and writing.

Mr. Skarp is in the business of general conveyancing, real estate, power of attorney to be used in the old country, insurance, foreign exchange, steamship tickets, etc.

In real estate he has made many deals in the city of properties reaching high figures in value. He recently negotiated and closed the deal and sale of the Guidinger property on Mesaba avenue to Ala & Anderson, the purchase price of which was \$14,800.

Mr. Skarp is in his prime of life,

his age being 33, the right age when the fire of youth is tempered by experience, and keeps his office help as well as himself humming all the time.

Besides the many other businesses and affairs already mentioned, Mr. Skarp is the legal stand for the Finnish people, many of whom are not able to understand or express themselves in the English language. He does not pretend to be a lawyer, but he has had wide experience in legal matters, and when an attorney is necessary he helps his countryman to secure one that will suit the occasion and explains the matter in question to him.

He employs in his office, as stenographer, Isaac Lemppa, Jr., a young lad whose father is the Finnish Apostolic Lutheran minister at Embarras, and who likewise speaks the Finnish as well as the English language.

By and through square dealings with his country people, Mr. Skarp has gained their confidence and esteem; they all appreciate his willingness to aid them, and they know that he possesses the necessary qualifications to that end.

Mr. Skarp looks forward to a busy time in the future, as he is confident of Virginia's prosperity and growth.

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City Owns Electric Light Plant

The city of Virginia owns its own electric light, power and water plant. It was recently acquired and since that time a reduction in the rates for lighting have been made to its patrons. The plant is one of the most modern and best equipped in the state.

Mesaba Hardware COMPANY

SPECIAL ALUMINUM WARE OF ALL KINDS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS. CALL AND LOOK OVER OUR STOCK OF SLEDS, SKEES, SKATES AND GUNS. WE CARRY AN UP-TO-DATE LINE OF ALL KINDS OF HARDWARE.

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