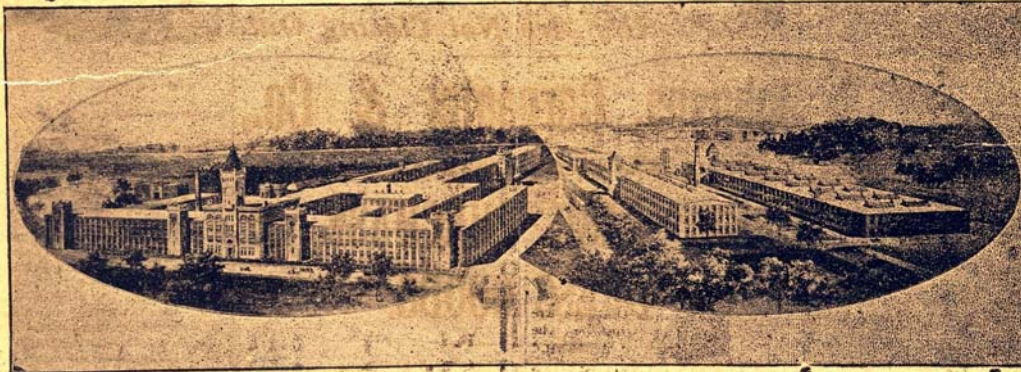


OPTICIANS VISIT A. O. FACTORY.

Much Pleased With The Work In The Different Departments.

ENTERTAINED IN A ROYAL MANNER.



AMERICAN OPTICAL CO.'S FACTORY.

The New England Association of Opticians, as guests on Wednesday of the American Optical Co., passed a very interesting and instructive day, that cannot fail to leave a pleasing impression on all who were present. The business of the annual convention of the association being over, more than 100 of the delegates came out from Boston to inspect the lens factory where a little George W. Wells, together with several members of the company and office officials, met the party. The delegates were grouped in small parties, conducted by the following persons: George W. Wells, Hiram Wells, Channing M. Wells, Albert B. Wells, Fred G. Blanchard C. Fred Hill, Nelson Baker, Pitt H. Herbert, Albert C. Clarke, Mr. Huribut, B. J. Bugbee and Howard Edmonds. The lens grinding department was first visited, and for nearly an hour the party was conducted through the various rooms, where the process was described as well as could be where so much was to be seen and the time limited. The visitors showed a lively interest in the work, all regretting that they did not have more time at their disposal. As one of the party truly remarked "It would take a day for each department to half see the work." The rooms, machinery and general appearance of the shops presented a very pleasing effect and was freely commented on. Some of the delegates were accompanied by lady friends, who seemed to appreciate the visit as much as the men. The visit to the lens factory was concluded at noon, the trip through being necessarily very hasty. From the lens factory the party was conducted to the main plant of the works, where was provided for them, in an upper room in the administration building, an appetizing luncheon. The tables were attractively set, with apple blossom bouquets for decoration. The meal was served by a prominent Worcester caterer and was done in proper style. While all were seated at table president George W. Wells addressed the delegates, extending the hearty welcome of the company and hoping that all would enjoy themselves to the utmost. As he took his seat, president Carter of the opticians' association rose and

called for three cheers for Mr. Wells and the American Optical Co. They were given with a will. Dr. Fowler of Lynn also made remarks, referring to the unrivaled product of the American Optical Co., and stating that much was due it for excellence attained in the manufacture of optical goods. At each plate was a unique souvenir, a pair of glasses in a neat case. As each visitor left the plant, encased in a cardboard box convenient for carrying. Following is the menu:

Tomato Soup	Olives
Chicken Pates	Rolls
Loyster Salad	Potato Salad
Strawberries with Cream	Coffee
Cheese	Crackers

The meal over, the party resumed its tour of the works, devoting the time remaining to them to an inspection of the main shop. Although they kept moving at a more than moderate pace, there was not time to see many interesting parts of the work, and with regret for this the delegates left toward evening, feeling more than repaid for the time spent in coming to Southbridge, and resolving to come again, when they could make a business of inspecting the works and getting at least a fair idea of the multifarious departments that go toward making the American Optical works the wonder and admiration of all persons at all familiar with optics and the manufacture of optical goods. Many of the delegates made no attempt to disguise their amazement at the tremendous scale on which everything is done by the American Optical Co., and were glad to say that they did not regret their visit to the works. Many of the delegates took a hurried glimpse of the town, with which they seemed to be favorably impressed, and they, like hundreds of others who have at different times visited the town, will spread its fame in all parts of New England. In their tour of the works there, was one room that interested the visitors, more, perhaps than any other. This was the display room in the administration building. Although the room is far from completed, one could get a faint idea of what it is to be. Here

the company had displayed specimens of all the goods made by it, and the various articles were a revelation to many, although the party was made up of persons who use such goods. In a short time this room will be thoroughly equipped with fixtures best suited to showing the goods, and cannot fail to be a great help to customers in selecting their wants. The visitors left Southbridge feeling in a highly appreciative mood because of the very interesting American Optical Co. In extending the courtesies of the day. Their visit here was in accordance with a suggestion made by Mr. A. G. Barber of the Globe Optical Co., of Boston, who communicated the desire of the association to visit the works to Mr. Wells. With his usual courtesy, Mr. Wells complied, and at once set out to do all in his power to make the visit as agreeable as possible for those who might come. Before they left, many of the visitors thanked Mr. Wells personally for the royal manner in which they were entertained, assuring him of their appreciation of the kindness extended them. One very noticeable feature of the event was the admirable way in which the program of the day was carried out. Everything was well planned and there was not the slightest deviation from it. The large party was handled without the least confusion and brought around in time for all to take the cars they had planned on. Taken altogether the day was one that will long be remembered by all present, and it is certain that they will have not only a pleasant recollection of the American Optical works but also of the town of Southbridge. Among those present were:—

A. B. Sly, Waltham; E. G. Worthley; Amesbury; Mrs. William J. Benu, Philadelphia; T. H. Sennott, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Babbitt, Nashua, N. H.; Allee V. G. Worthley, Amesbury; G. N. Cashman, Amesbury; William J. Benu, Philadelphia; F. M. Duske, Boston; Ernest R. Post-Westfield; John R. Schironge, New York; Frederic Boger, New York; Mrs. H. Fellman, J. E. Whiting, S. C. Hewitt, Salem; L. A. Webster, Medford; A. K. Forsaith, Manchester, N. H.; H. L. Bowen, Boston; W. S. Todd, Hartford, Ct.; W. B. Snow, Boston; M. J. Atherton, Boston; F. S. Hall, Fitchburg; George H. Newell,

Lynn; L. A. Wylie, Lynn; Walter G. Wolf, Boston; H. L. Houghton, Boston; William D. Ward, Hyde Park; Mr. and Mrs. A. G. McKenzie, Boston; Joseph Emanuels, Boston; George W. Drabble, Woonsocket, R. I.; John Carter, Boston; Cyrus E. Powers, Webster; E. P. Learned, Boston; H. E. French, Hudson; F. W. Woolway, Newton; Samuel G. Larned, Boston; Walter W. Cook, Natick; C. I. Bedell, Worcester; C. S. Hart, Lynn; W. F. Putham, Boston; H. W. Green, Boston; W. W. Hensworth, Fitchburg; William L. Thomas, Boston; Everett A. Flye, Gloucester; Albert A. Carter, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Lonnemney, Springfield; G. E. Chase, Bangor, Me.; Frank H. Waterman, Boston; F. A. Wald, Southbridge; J. Onimette, Southbridge; George Grant, Southbridge; E. A. Reed, Salem; Herbert L. Chase, Boston; H. E. Hornbeck, Waltham; Thomas B. Frost, Chelsea; William H. Wyman, Chelsea; E. C. Pijer, New York; Eben Hardy, Waltham; Walter F. Robbins, Skowhegan, Me.; A. F. Fillebrown, Brockton; J. A. Beecher, Brockton; John P. Farrington, Kingston; E. M. Carpenter, Denver; Francis S. Parker, Belkows Falls, Vt.; J. H. Murard, Boston; Dr. E. H. Barlington, Wintertport, Me.; T. J. Morrow, Holyoke; J. G. Olin, Lynn; T. R. Cushing, Rockland; F. R. Vaughan, Brattleboro, Vt.; F. W. Poole, Newport, R. I.; F. L. Parkhurst, Fitchburg; H. C. Manning, Merrimack; Alexander O. Narbin, New York; Charles E. Monroe, Southbridge; L. M. Barnes, North Adams; Charles E. Tilton, Boston; Charles M. Whitney, Boston; N. C. Aublee, Fitchburg; A. T. N. Dahl, Maynard; F. R. Hardenburg, Boston; Thomas W. Spencer, Boston; James Muir, Rockport; James T. McEvoy, Boston; H. J. Bodwell, Lynn; F. Lyman, Bridgeport, Ct.; H. Fellmair, Woonsocket, R. I.; Frank P. Rickers, Salem; Miss A. L. Thompson, Boston; Miss E. A. MacMaster, Boston; L. A. Underwood, Boston; Dr. G. W. Fowler, Lynn; S. A. Dodge, Pawtucket, R. I.; George B. Nagel, Boston; E. C. McFarland, Augusta, Me.; Mrs. W. Slade, Dorchester; H. L. Klein, Boston; Walter G. Pratt, A. G. Barber, Boston; Thomas J. O'Rourke, Worcester.