

# BINFORD

Binford is one of the most thriving trade points on the Cooperstown branch of the N. P. railway. It is situated fourteen miles northwest of Cooperstown—the county seat—in one of the choicest sections of the country, and is surrounded by an energetic and thrifty population. It has a population of about 300, which is steadily increasing. Its business enterprises include general stores, drug store, two banks, state and national, one hotel, restaurant, a newspaper, meat market, two photograph galleries, two hardware stores, pool room, two blacksmith shops, an automobile garage, feed mill, two livery and feed stables, a tailor shop, five elevators, two lumber yards, and other retail establishments. It has telephone facilities—both local and long distance. Binford has a modern and well equipped school building with an efficient corps of teachers. It is approached from all directions over well-built and substantial roads which greatly facilitate the hauling of produce to market.

Binford is in the front rank among the towns of the eastern part of the state as a banking and commercial center. The call of November 26, 1912, of the two banks showed the total deposits to be \$216,941.33. Aply and successfully conducted along liberal but yet sound lines, afford ample facilities in credits extended for present needs. That their enlargements will keep pace with the growth of Binford and its splendid tributary sections, may not be a subject of question.

The mercantile men, the hardware merchants, lumber dealers, drug store, meat market, tailor, photo studios, elevators, restaurant, hotel, livery stables, blacksmith shops—all these are displaying an aggressiveness that is truly worthy of commendation.

Improvements of various kinds are continually being made, new homes erected, lawns are being cared for in an inviting manner, church influences are wholesome, social influences elevating and inspiring, home influences a benediction, educational influences the most helpful.

Man meets his fellows here with a "Good morning, James, how are you feeling this morning?" while the answer is wafted back on the morning breeze, "Quite well, I thank you." The good women, as they toil the greater part of the day in looking after the domestic duties, hum a merry tune the while, because "love lightens labor." And over their tea cups at an afternoon function, or around some family circle, banded together as a club they discuss topics alone intended to elevate their race.

This is our town—the ideal city of this county.

Our town has little ambition as a manufacturing center. There is here a vast amount of enterprise, but it manifests itself not so much in promoting "wild-cat" plunges as in developing the many attractions that make this a model home town. The concerns and interests that center in the home, the circumstances and influences that constitute a desirable environment for the home—these are the elements that should be most assiduously cared for by those who have the future growth of the city at heart.

The school system of this city is one of its chief prides. The building was erected in the year 1906,

and is a large and modern one. Three teachers are employed and the school population is 75.

Certainly, adequate and varied provision for education is a price requisite from the point of view of the home. The home means children, and the children demand schools. And a town which claims to offer unique advantages to home-lovers must possess not average but the best school facilities. Whatever else is stunted, the schools must be well cared for.

The board of directors are: Jos. Buchheit, Andrew Norstrum, P. P. Idsvog, D. A. Goplin, and Dr. J. R. Truscott. They have an able secretary in Otto Pritz. With these gentlemen guiding the destiny of the school they will continue to build with their best wisdom and liberality, and the historian of the future will look well after the records.

There is not a man in our town however indifferent to the claims of Christianity, who would want to rear his family here if there were no churches or church influence, for he at once recognizes them as the guardians of the morals of the community. Binford has two churches, United Lutheran, with Rev. T. E. Sweger of Cooperstown as pastor, and the Lutheran Free church, with Rev. H. M. Halling in charge. The German Lutherans have two churches in this vicinity with Rev. P. F. Seigel as pastor.

Binford has its share of fraternal organizations, chief of which is the order of Odd Fellows. This is an order of world-wide popularity, and an influence radiates therefrom that is extremely helpful. As their right hand bower stands the conquering Rebekahs with all their redeeming qualities. The other orders are the Yoemen and the Woodmen.

The town supports a splendid musical organization consisting of 25 members, with O. O. Brodshaug as director. This organization has played high grade difficult music and have at various times filled important engagements and have always given excellent satisfaction. They are an organization that any town might be proud of having produced, and they speak volumes for the energy of the young men of the town which the band represents.

Annual grain shipments from this point approximate 500,000 bushels.

Binford is famous for its fine water. Soft water is to be found from fifteen to thirty feet, which is free from alkali and is pleasing to the taste. According to a test made by Professor Ladd no better water can be found in the state.

There are numerous lakes scattered over the county, many of them surrounded by natural timber. The prettiest of these is Red Willow, six miles north of Binford. It is a beautiful spot, and offers to the husbandman and city dweller ideal surroundings for pleasure parties and picnics.

How naturally it is and with what gratification, that the people of Binford face the future, and say: "It is well with us." Favored of fortune and smiled upon of Mother Earth, they are eager for what destiny has so plainly in store for them. Not wanting it all, for there is enough of the feast and to spare, Binford extends a heartfelt invitation to alert, hopeful and ambitious men and women everywhere: "Come be with us, and of us."