



BOARD OF COMMERCE, PONTIAC

# PONTIAC

## The Beautiful Capital of Oakland County Civic, Commercial and Industrial Features

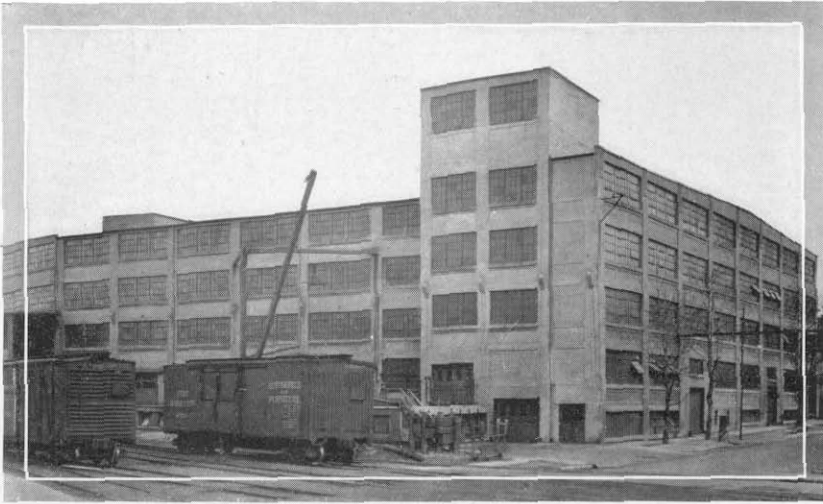
Pontiac, Michigan, is located in Oakland County about twenty-five miles north and west of the city of Detroit. Oakland County with its four hundred lakes is the natural Summer Wonderland of Michigan. Threaded with its hundreds of miles of modern concrete, and graveled roads, and with its golf courses and summer hotels by the dozens, it offers unusual attractions to the motorists and the summer tourists. Not only is this County an ideal Summer resort, but as an Industrial and Agricultural County it ranks very high. Many of its farms and country estates are conceded to be not only among the finest in Michigan, but to compare very favorably with the famous estates on the Hudson just outside of New York City. The city is especially proud of its school system. The High School is one of the most modern and beautiful in the country and will be made even more attractive by additions which are soon to be made to it, due to the rapid growth of the city and the consequent increase in pupils of high school age. Junior College studies are taught in connection with the high school curriculum so that the city is especially well taken care of from the standpoint of preparation for the college and university courses. The grade schools of the city are very modern and are given very careful attention. In addition to the public schools, St. Vincent de Paul's Catholic Church maintains a strong Parochial School with high school grades. At Orchard Lake, a distance of five miles, is located St. Mary's Seminary, a theological school for Polish young men. The churches of the city are strong and growing rapidly in membership, and play a large part in directing the growth of Pontiac along the proper lines. The city is dependent for transportation upon three lines of the Grand Trunk Railway, being connected with Detroit by the Grand Haven and Mackinac Division of these lines. The Pontiac, Oxford and Northern Division of the Grand Trunk runs northeast into the Thumb District of Michigan and the Air Line Branch of the same road furnishes connections with eastern and western points. It also has direct double track electric line connections with Detroit on the Detroit United Railway and is connected with various lake points in the county by the Orchard Lake Division of the same line. The city is also connected with Detroit by a permanent concrete highway, which is electric-lighted over its entire distance. For electricity for lighting and power the city is dependent



SOME OF PONTIAC'S INDUSTRIES



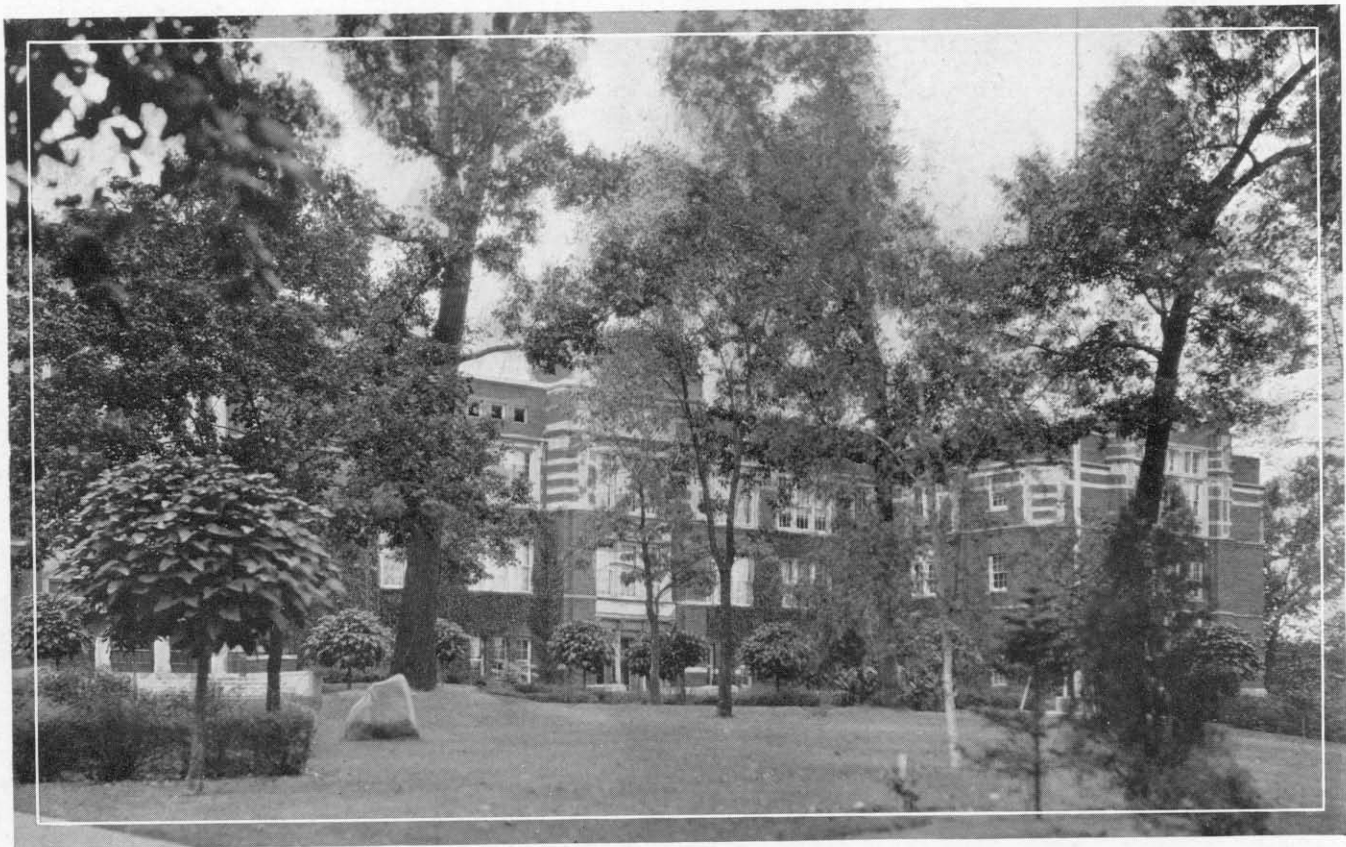
PONTIAC CITY HOSPITAL



VIEW OF OAKLAND MOTOR FACTORY

on the Michigan Light Company, a branch of the big Commonwealth Corporation. The gas plant is controlled by the Consumers Power Company. The two have joint offices and are operated by the same local manager. The street railways are operated by the Detroit United Railway Company, enfranchised by the city. The water works are municipally owned and operated. Pontiac has one daily newspaper, the Pontiac Daily Press, which has a large circulation in city and county and which exerts a very wholesome influence upon the community, due to the keen interest of its management in all that pertains to the civic welfare of the community. The city has three strong banks which have resources of over \$20,000,000.00. A Mortgage Investment Company with a capital of \$1,500,000 gives encouragement to home builders. There were over 1,500 homes constructed in the city during the year 1919, a record which is believed cannot be equalled by any city in the United States, population considered. Pontiac is especially fortunate in the financial backing enjoyed by its principal industries. The General Motors Corporation has two large industries, in the city, the Oakland Motor Car Company and the General Motors Truck Company, while the Wilson Foundry and Machine Company is closely affiliated with the Willys-Overland Automobile Company of Toledo. The Eaton Axle and Spring Company manufacturers of Auto Springs and Axles. The Fisher Body Company has two large plants where Lakland and Chevrolet bodies are manufactured. General Accessories Company manufacturing automobile accessories. The Columbia Truck Company, manufacturers of Columbia Trucks.

Other prominent and thriving industries are the Michigan Drop Forge Company, Briscoe Devices Company, the American Forging & Socket Company, the Pontiac Varnish Company, The Pontiac Paint Company, the Hubbard Spring Works, the Pontiac Exterminating Company, Jig Bushing Company, Pontiac Die Tool & Machine Company, the Oliver Bottling Works, and many others. The government of the city has been Commission-Manager in form since 1920. In every city some organization must centralize the general activity of the city in commercial and industrial lines and in civic betterment. The Board of Commerce is the logical organization in Pontiac. It is the instrumentality through which enterprising business men co-operate to make a greater and better city. It concentrates the best business activities of the municipality and affords an agency through which all can work for civic uplift. There must be such an organization if our civic spirit is to be kept alive and intelligently directed. The Board has been a progressive and potent factor in the advancement of the city and its unity of purpose and plans still further insure its continued prosperity. The Board of Commerce of Pontiac now has a membership of nearly 1,000 and is quartered in its own home on East Huron street. A Cafe is maintained which is open to the general public and which is very popular.



PONTIAC HIGH SCHOOL



(GMC) GENERAL MOTORS TRUCK COMPANY

## Statistical Facts Concerning Pontiac

Area seven and one-half square miles; altitude 945 feet above sea level. Assessed Valuation 1914, \$17,148,000; 1919, \$28,028,291; 1920, \$43,607,554; 1921, \$44,000,000; 1922, \$42,000,000; 1923, \$44,060,000. Bonded debt \$2,964,500 as of July 25th, 1923. Tax rate city 1923, \$18.285. Birth rate per 1000, 27; death rate per 1000, 7. Miles of streets, 112. Miles of paving, 27. Miles of public sewers, 71.8. Miles of electric street railway, 14. Miles of gas mains laid, 69.7. Parks and parkways: number of parks, 6; 10 parkways and triangles; number of acres 247.54; values \$150,000. Water works: capacity, 25,000,000 gallons; daily average number of gallons pumped 4,000,000; miles of water mains, 75.7; value of plant, \$1,775,064.62. Fire department: Number of men, 40; number of Station Houses, 2; number of autos, chief's car; number of engines, 3 auto triple combination; number of hose and chemical wagons, two; number of hook and ladder trucks, 2; value of buildings and lots, \$135,000; value of apparatus, \$57,000. Police Department; Number of men, 36 and 2 police women; number of stations, 1. Schools—Public; number of schools, 11; number of teachers, 221; number of pupils, 6,589; value of property, \$2,455,182; Schools—Parochial and Diocesan, one; Schools—Miscellaneous, one. Number of books in Public Library, 10,000. Post office receipts 1922, \$125,027.94. Number of banks and trust companies, three; bank deposits December 31st, 1922, \$13,216,713.78. Number of theatres and motion picture houses, four; number of hospitals, two; number of hotels, six; Manufacturing: Number of factories, 49; number of operatives, 10,500; wages paid annually, \$9,000,000.00; value of annual output, \$51,004,245.00; value of building permits 1922, \$1,414,528.00.

## Population, 1923

There are 19,030 individual names in the Directory aside from those of business firms or institutions, indicating a population in the territory covered by the Directory of 47,577. This result is arrived at by multiplying the number of names by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to allow for the number of women and children whose names are not in the Directory. This multiplier, experience has shown, is conservative in cities in which the population is chiefly industrial. In canvassing for names and information the geographical confines of the city were not arbitrarily observed. Small sections of territory immediately adjacent, which are parts of the city as far as business and social life are concerned, were included.

No matter where you tour or roam,  
The best old road is the road to home.



WILSON FOUNDRY AND MACHINE CO.

Good roads and the automobile make the farmer and the doctor near neighbors. They put the older children in the town high school. They enable the girl, home from Normal, and the boy, home from college, to get to the country club and play golf. They increase social intercourse between relatives and friends. They make possible practically all the cooperative movements we have in mind as we cite the farm bureau and the home science clubs.



ANOTHER PONTIAC INDUSTRY