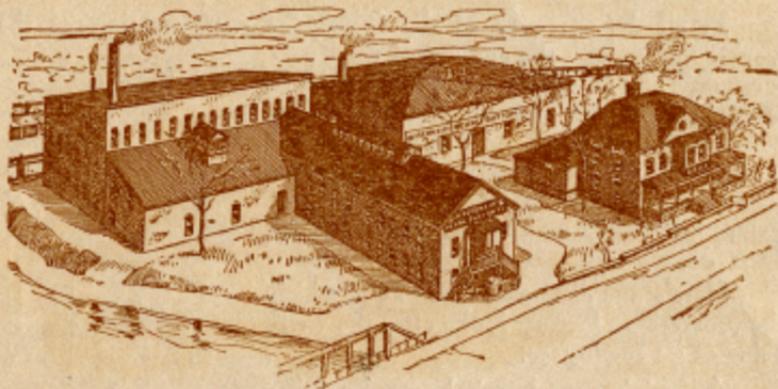


The Story of My Life by "Billie Button"

CHAPTER VIII. About my Birthplace—and how they do things in a big Button Factory

I SHOULD be ungrateful indeed if I told you only about MYSELF and MY ANCESTRY, and didn't devote at least one chapter of my life story to my BIRTHPLACE and HOME, the factory of the Wisconsin Pearl Button Company of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

This factory is a big, modern, industrial plant conducted on broad-gauge lines of scientific management. Its slogan is "Efficiency." Every one of its three hundred and fifty employees is imbued with the spirit of ACCOMPLISHMENT and QUALITY. These employees are picked workers, and each of them receives special training in his or her particular task before being intrusted with a part in the production of the finished button. This assures in us who come from this factory a high standard of quality that has made the Wisconsin Pearl Button Company's output eagerly sought by buyers who know and demand the best in pearl buttons.



In this factory **SYSTEM** and **STANDARDIZATION** are the big ideas.

SYSTEM cuts out waste in handling and manufacture, reduces the labor required for each operation to the minimum, and at the same time makes every stroke of work count big for quality. **STANDARDIZATION** insures the perfect, even finishing and grading of the entire product.

All the clam shells that come into the factory are, as I've told you, graded for species. This enables each cutter to become an expert in his line, for, by cutting only one kind of shell, he acquires the ability to turn out the greatest possible number of good blanks, and to produce the highest possible quality of blanks at the lowest possible price. All operations in the factory are standardized and the employees are trained to the high quality standard upon which the notable prestige of the Wisconsin Pearl Button Company has been built up.



To obtain quantity of production and quality in the finished product, the factory is equipped with automatic machinery of the most improved type. In the making room each of the twenty-five button machines has a speed of 45 to 80 buttons per minute. In the cutting room are batteries of lathes, on each of which several different sizes of buttons can be made by simply changing the saw, spool or chuck.