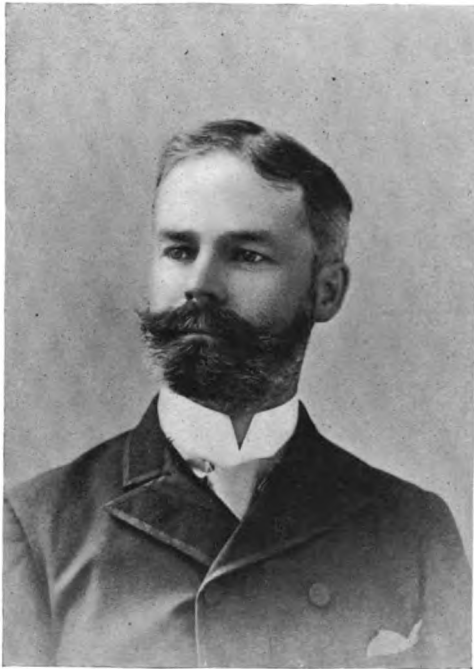


**BIRDSEYE, ISAAC WASHINGTON**, Manufacturer, Bridgeport, was born in Huntington, Connecticut, and is the son of the late Joseph and Caroline (Hubbell) Birdseye. He traces his ancestry on both sides back to good old New England stock. The Birdseyes originally came from Berkshire, England, in 1636, and settled in Stratford, Connecticut. Among the ancestors of the present manufacturer are, the Reverend Nathan Birdseye, a graduate of Yale in 1736, and Pastor of the church at West Haven and afterwards at Stratford, who died in 1818 at the age of one hundred and three; also Captain Joseph Birdseye, a Revolutionary



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patriot, Major Gold of Fairfield, and Thomas Wells, magistrate and Governor of Connecticut from 1637 until his death in 1659. On the maternal side Mr. Birdseye is a lineal descendant of Richard Hubbell, a native of Wales who emigrated to America in 1645; also, of Lieutenant John Hubbell who was commissioned by Governor Treat in 1690 and died in service during the Indian Wars; also of Lieutenant Richard Hubbell, commissioned by Governor Tolcott in 1728, and who afterwards became Captain of a Colonial company. This ancestor removed from Stratford to Huntington and there became a large land owner and successful planter. He died in 1758 and was buried in the old church

yard at Huntington Center. Isaac W. Birdseye began business as a corset and hoopskirt manufacturer at the age of twenty in his native town of Huntington. He there remained until 1870 when he removed his business to Shelton, Connecticut, where under the name of the Birmingham Corset Company it is still carried on. The business increased rapidly, a branch factory was established in Newark, New Jersey, and in 1880, in order to supply the constantly growing demand for his goods he leased from the Howe estate at Bridgeport, one of their large factory buildings and started the business now known as the Bridgeport Corset Company. This business has grown to be one of the largest and most successful industries in the state. It employs nearly one thousand hands, has a wholesale store at 85 Leonard street, New York city, and is widely and favorably known in the trade. Mr. Birdseye has a wide acquaintance throughout the state and is universally beloved and respected among his business associates and fellow citizens. He is a man of highest integrity, generous and genial, with a warm sympathy for the unfortunate and a ready aid for every worthy cause. He is a member of the South Congregational church of Bridgeport and has been a Director and active worker in the Young Men's Christian Association ever since its organization. He is one of the largest stockholders of the Pequonnock National Bank and has served as a Director for many years, and is also a Director in the Bridgeport Coffee House. He belongs to the Sons of the American Revolution and to the Seaside Club, and is a governor of the Brooklawn Country Club. Mr. Birdseye was married in May 1880, to Lizzie Josephine, only daughter of Aaron Banks and Elizabeth Curtiss Sherwood. They have one daughter, Elizabeth Josephine Birdseye.

**DURAND, CHARLES**, Ex-Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives and President of the Schneller, Osborne & Cheesman Company of Ansonia, was born in Derby, Connecticut, January 21, 1820, son of Samuel and Sally (Hawkins) Durand. His ancestors were Huguenots who came from France about two hundred years ago, and settled in the town of Derby, where descendants of the family have continued to reside until the present day. His father cultivated a farm on which is located the larger part of West Ansonia. At that period there was no evidence of any manufacturing

interest in that section. He was educated in a district school and at the Derby Academy. At the age of fifteen he left home for New Haven, where he entered into mercantile pursuits and there remained until 1846. From there he went to New York and entered the importing and wholesale dry-goods business. There he remained for ten years, when he returned to his native place and engaged in manufacturing. He was President of the Osborne & Cheesman Company for many years, and is now President of the Schneller, Osborne & Cheesman Company of Ansonia. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs. In 1874 he was



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elected to the Legislature, and in 1875 he was re-elected and called by the unanimous vote of his party to be Speaker of the House. The sessions of that Legislature were long and strongly partisan, and there was much business to be considered; but it was carried forward with such fairness towards all parties that no attempt was ever made to alter or amend the Speaker's decisions. His rulings were never questioned, and at the close of the session such was the general good feeling among all the members of the House that they formed themselves into an association and agreed to have annual reunions which have been continued for over twenty years until the present time. In 1848 he

married Caroline, daughter of the late Henry Trowbridge, of New Haven, who died in 1850. His second wife is Annie, daughter of the late Amos Trowbridge. The families of both of his wives were residents of New Haven and their fathers were brothers. He has embodied his idea of architecture in his beautiful residence known as "Woodcliffe," situated commandingly on South Cliff street overlooking the busy city of Ansonia.

ERICHSON, CHARLES BURNS, Dentist, New Britain, was born in New Haven, Connecticut, May 15, 1847, son of Abraham A. and Maria (Howd) Erichson. His father sprang from Danish and Swedish stock, and was a man of intrepid, resolute character, who served faithfully in the Seminole War in Florida, also entered the ranks of the Union army in the Civil War, Company I, Eighth New Jersey Volunteers, and died in honorable service in 1862. His mother was born in East Hartford, and descended from English stock; sturdy pioneers who, in our early Colonial days, left their native land to cast their fortunes with this, their adopted country, and became settlers in Branford, Connecticut. Her son can trace her direct descent back to 1630, while it is a matter of no small significance that four of her ancestors were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. With such a notable heritage of fighting blood from both sides, it is scarcely to be wondered at that Colonel Erichson should early have felt the stirring of patriotic impulse in his veins, and that as a mere boy—a lad of fourteen—he left the common school in answer to the call of his country, to enlist in the army in August 1861 a member of the Eighth New Jersey Volunteers. He served for a year, was disabled and discharged, and followed mechanical pursuits until January 1864. At this time he began the study of dentistry in the office of Dr. R. C. Dunham of New Britain, Connecticut, where he continued to practice successfully for the next four years. In August 1865 Colonel Erichson had enlisted as a private in Battery E, Connecticut National Guards, and served in all the grades to, and including, that of Captain. He received respectful and honorable discharge in 1871 at the reorganization and reduction of the Connecticut National Guards, re-entering the state's service in March 1872 as Captain of Company E, First Connecticut National Guards, from which he retired and was honorably discharged in October 1883. In January 1890, he again entered the military ser-