

BULLETIN *of The* BUSINESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

BAKER LIBRARY, SOLDIERS FIELD, BOSTON, MASS.

Volume IV, No. 4

JUNE, 1930

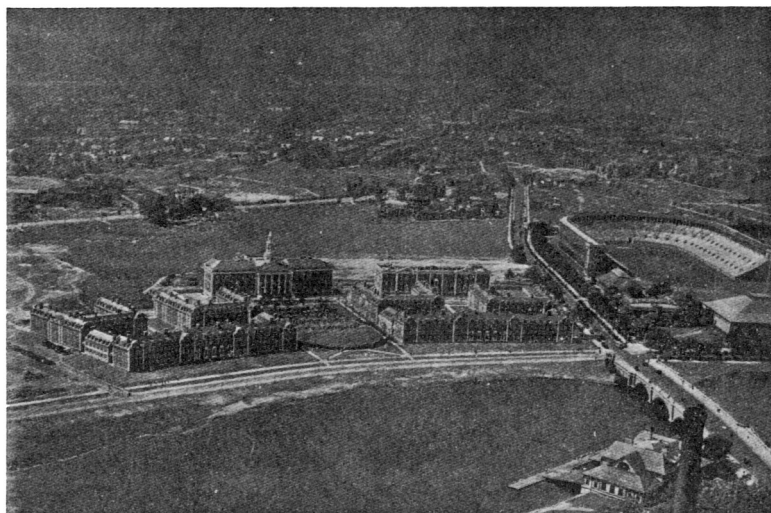
Whole Number 26

Looking Backward

THIS month is in a sense an anniversary season for The Business Historical Society, for although it was founded in October, 1925, it was not until the following June that it became an active organization. The field which the Society entered four years ago was almost unknown, and since that time its work in collecting and organizing material, and in enlisting the interest of the community has already given business history a definite place among subjects for scholarly study and research.

In the gathering of material it has been remarkably successful. Among the valuable collections which belong to the Society, or are accessible to its members through its arrangement with the Baker Library are important records connected with finance in all of its departments; transportation, including the statistical series reports, and developments of the subject from the days of stage coaches, canals and sailing vessels to those of the present day railroad and trans-oceanic steamship service; industrials relating to early achievements in iron, steel and copper, wool and cotton, and kindred products, besides much foreign material necessary to a full understanding of domestic business problems.

Some idea of the variety of interests represented in the membership may be formed by glancing at only the first page of the list of members in the descriptive booklet, which includes but sixteen names. On that page appear the names of representatives from national and investment banking organizations, public utilities, steel, copper, cotton, and rubber industries, a department store, the legal profession, besides those of executives in important government departments. In the affiliated list are members from most of



AN AIRPLANE VIEW OF THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL BUILDINGS TAKEN AT THE DEDICATION, JUNE 1926. THE BAKER LIBRARY, HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE SOCIETY, IS IN THE CENTER OF THE GROUP

the leading American universities, and in addition, from those of Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Rome, Hamburg, and Munich, and a number of other prominent foreign universities.

The activities of the Society have included the publishing of two books, *The Industrial and Commercial Correspondence of Alexander Hamilton*, and the *Journal of John James Audubon, 1840-1843*, and it is collaborating with the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in the quarterly publication of a *Journal of Economic and Business History*.

The generosity of its friends and the systematic work of its officers are steadily filling out and adding to the already fine collection of the Society. The cooperation of certain railroads, to which the Society sent check-lists of material, in supplying documents which were lacking, furnishes an example of the attitude in business circles toward this undertaking. With the interest and sympathy of the public added to the enthusiasm of those who have the direction of its activities, we may be sure that what the Society has already done is only a beginning of the work it may hope to accomplish.