

POPE PARK GYMNASIUM

NEW PUBLIC ATHLETIC FIELD
NOW OPEN.

DELIGHTFULLY LOCATED AND
THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED.

In Charge of Physical Instructor
Velte and H. B. Stillman—Ath-
letic Meet for Workmen
on Saturday.

Hartford people have at last obtained one of the novelties of summer sport which have become such a strong feature in the life of many of the great cities of the East. The open-air gymnasium at Pope Park has opened a means of exercise and pleasure for the workmen and boys, who have become much interested in the scheme, as has been shown by the large attendance during the past week. The gymnasium is situated on a miniature plateau on Park street opposite the Electric Vehicle Company's works. A broad, level stretch of about 200 yards in length and 100 in breadth with a circle of young trees all around make it an ideal spot for the work. From it can be seen the Trinity College buildings, the hospital on Cedar Mountain, and the Dimock home on Vanderbilt Hill. To the west in the hollow beyond the gymnasium runs the Park River and on the east is the great expanse of rolling lawn, which has been called the most beautiful natural lawn in the country.

The gymnasium has been fitted out in the most approved manner under the direction of Superintendent Wisk. It is built of very heavy timbers, much attention being given to the strength and durability of the apparatus. A four-foot space of concrete was first made to form a solid base, and the entire apparatus is bolted at every joint. There are twenty-four pieces but the interest shown demands an increase in the number as every one is in use constantly.

The apparatus consists of three horizontal bars, four pairs of parallel bars, three sets of flying rings, four balance swings, one 20-foot horizontal ladder, five climbing poles, two climbing ropes, two giant strides (rope ladders fixed in the form of a merry-go-round). Besides these there are places for high jumping, pole vaulting, broad jumping, shot-putting and basketball. Outside of the apparatus is an excellent place for a running track, the distance around the plot being 988 feet.

The instruction of classes in drill and apparatus work is given by George B. Velte, the instructor at Trinity College, and Harold B. Stillman, who has been a member of the leaders' class at the high school gymnasium for four years. From 10 until 12 o'clock each day classes from the vacation schools are given instruction. Five schools are represented, the Brown, Arsenal, Second North, Charter Oak and Lawrence Street. They meet in classes of fifty or 100 boys each as follows: Mondays, fifty from the Lawrence Street School; Tuesday, fifty from the Brown; Wednesday, fifty from the Lawrence; Thursday, fifty from the Arsenal and fifty from the Second North; Friday, fifty from the Charter Oak and fifty from the Brown. There is no school work on Saturday. The work for vacation schools will continue until August 9. On August 9 an exhibition will be given with combined classes from all the schools numbering 350 boys, exercises in dumb-bell and ward drills and apparatus work will be given and basket ball games will be played between teams representing the schools.

In the afternoon and evening the gymnasium is open to the public and many of the workmen enjoy the privileges of the scheme. Beginning to-day classes for men will meet at 4 o'clock and at 6:45. Yesterday afternoon and evening 100 to 150 men were in attendance and members of the Turnbund, the Y. M. C. A. and the high school gave a little informal exhibition of horizontal bar and athletic work which was much applauded.

For interesting the workmen, Instructor Velte and John F. Gunshannon have arranged a program of sports