

Mr. Welch, in later years, brought out an excellent upright bed, which was called the "Oxford," and later added mantel and cabinet beds. New features in construction were developed and additional patents were issued in recognition of Mr. Welch's ingenuity by the patent office. The springs with the Welch patent folding attachment does away with center spring supports, affording room for a mattress of full thickness and necessary bedding. The company operate probably the largest factory in the world devoted exclusively to the production of this line of furniture. The samples are artistically designed and well constructed. Warerooms are maintained throughout the year in Grand Rapids, where buyers always find an intact line of the company's wares. L. W. Welch and Manly W. Burch are the sole owners of the business. Mr. Welch is the president, Mr. Burch the vice-president and superintendent of the factory.

Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture Company.

Those who were in business in 1893 remember that it was not a good one for new enterprises. But Mr. Uhl needed experience and the year of the panic offered all that could be desired in that respect. Mr. Uhl took the bumps of a dull market philosophically and went on making tables and selling them to whoever would buy. Business was not so lively that it kept him chained to his desk, and much of his time was spent in the acquirement of practical knowledge of the business he had undertaken in the factory. As times improved Mr. Uhl found that the business of manufacturing and selling furniture was not so unsatisfying as it might be and he substituted music cabinets, writing desks, and bookcases of medium and fine quality for tables. A new factory and warehouse covering an area of 60 by 800 feet was erected and upon its walls were inscribed the name under which Mr. Uhl transacts his furniture manufacturing business—the Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture company.

Mueller-Slack Company.

The oldest of the upholstering corporations of Grand Rapids is the Mueller-Slack Company. J. Fred Mueller who had been for a number of years in the employ of the Phoenix Furniture Company, and A. W. Slack founded the business more than a decade ago and have since directed the affairs of the corpora-