

prospector, and the speculator who was investigating the Grand River Valley. In the days before the civil war when it was a city in name it was the starting point for lumbermen, timber lookers and pioneers to the north woods, and was also a distributing point for local trade. In war times it was a business and military headquarters and its hotels were thronged. In after years came the railroads, the factories and the wholesale trade which were all conducive to travel and profit for taverns. In recent years the furniture expositions have greatly stimulated hotel business; again the city has become popular as a convention town which helps the hotels. The city is never without strangers within its gates and from the days when a candle light in a settler's cabin was a welcome sight to the belated traveler to the present when each incoming train is met with well lighted carriages to escort travelers to luxurious quarters Grand Rapids has always had a glad hand for the stranger and the wayfaring man, and its hotels are never without guests.