

gan Smith; treasurer, H. W. Slocum. A reading room was opened, regular meetings were held, and a relief department organized for assisting the needy poor, which was afterwards turned over to the Union Benevolent Association. The next year rooms were occupied at 30 Canal street, a library started, and an employment bureau organized. The association also conducted large religious meetings in Luce's Hall. In 1870 the association was legally incorporated. In 1871 the headquarters were removed to Monroe street, opposite the Widdicomb building. In 1872 a general secretary, Mr. John Homer, was secured. The year 1874 saw the association adopting a new constitution, and the next year headquarters were removed to the Ledyard block. During Centennial year, 1876, there was an official report submitted to the association which showed that prior to that time more than \$20,000 had been expended in Grand Rapids by the local association since its organization, and that more than \$1,800 had been expended in relief work. That year the state convention of the Y. M. C. A. was entertained in Grand Rapids. In 1883 the association moved to the Godfrey block on Ionia street, one door south of Monroe street, where the headquarters remained until 1886, when they were removed to the northwest corner of Pearl and Ottawa streets, where Mr. Julius Berkey had erected a temporary building for the use of the association. The state convention was entertained by Grand Rapids in 1887. In 1888 the International Conference of Y. M. C. A. Secretaries was held in Grand Rapids, with nearly three hundred delegates attending from all parts of the United States and many foreign countries. The first site of the Y. M. C. A. building, at the corner of Ionia and Pearl streets, was purchased in September, 1888, and in October of the same year, the headquarters were again removed from the corner of Pearl and Ottawa to an old dwelling on the site purchased, and there the headquarters have since remained. In 1899 the international convention of Y. M. C. A. delegates was held in Grand Rapids. It was an event in the religious and municipal life of the city.

The Y. M. C. A. building is a monument of enterprise to the city. It cost \$100,000 with its equipments, and is an investment which pays good interest in the forces which work for righteousness in the city, its growth and development.

For more than thirty years the Y. M. C. A. of Grand Rapids