GEMS OF THE CITY

[Continued.]

Sligh Furniture Company.

Charles R. Sligh, president; John D. Cheo, secretary. Manufacturers of chamber furniture, Nos. 13 to 59 Buchanan street.

The Sligh Furniture company was incorporated February 24, 1880, capital stock $100,000, and is among the most famous and prosperous of the many representatives of that great industry which has done so much to build up and make Grand Rapids the wonder of Western Michigan. The factory buildings, with a frontage extending from No. 13 to No. 59, inclusive, Buchanan street, are of brick, four stories in height, with basement, 100x412 feet in dimensions, and cover, with yards and appurtenances, about five acres of land. The business offices and salesrooms are in front, stock rooms in rear, and the several departments of the factory on the upper floors, each complete in itself and superbly equipped with the finest improved machinery and appliances, the whole driven by a 400-horse power steam engine. Three hundred hands are employed. A private switch and track running through the premises facilitates shipments, which are made direct and without breaking bulk or transfer from warehouse to destination, which may be on the Atlantic or the Pacific seaboard, in Canada or the far south. It is stated on good authority that this company alone makes and sells annually more than $300,000 worth of goods, the specialties comprising a general line of medium-priced chamber suits and sideboards. Great care is exercised in the selection of material, and the workmanship and finish is in all respects equal to the best. Oak, sycamore, birch and mahogany only are used, and the resources of the concern enable it to command ample supplies at all seasons. In point of value of output this company ranks next to the largest in the city.

President Sligh was the first manager of the company, his connection with which dates from its organization, and is consequently familiar with the furniture trade in all its phases. He is also a public-spirited and popular citizen who has contributed liberally of his time, labor and means for the material advancement of Grand Rapids and the state at large.

Nelson, Matter & Co.

Ezra T. Nelson, president; Elias Matter, vice president; James G. MacBride, secretary; Jay D. Utley, treasurer. Manufacturers of, wholesale and retail dealers in furniture. Offices and salesrooms, Nos. 33, 35, 37 and 39 Canal street.

The inception of this great leading furniture house dates back to 1856, when E. W. and S. A. Winchester erected a small frame cabinet shop on the site now occupied by the present company's big Lyon street warehouse. C. C. Comstock became associated with Messrs. Winchester soon after they got fairly established, and in 1865 Messrs. James M. and Ezra T. Nelson bought a one-half interest, when the style of Comstock, Nelson & Co. was adopted. Seven years later, in 1870, Mr. Elias Matter succeeded Mr. Comstock by purchase, and the firm name was changed to Nelson, Matter & Co. Meantime enlargements and improvements had rapidly succeeded each other, but the facilities hardly kept pace with requirements, and in 1873 was erected the great brick factory, four stories and basement, fronting 204 feet on Lyon street and 70 feet on the river. In 1878 Messrs. James G. MacBride and Jay D. Utley were admitted to the firm. In 1887 the brick warerooms on Lyon street burned, and the same year the company was reorganized and incorporated with $250,000 capital and officers as above. The ensuing year was built on the site of the burned warerooms the great Lyon street warehouse, 68 feet front by 160 feet deep, seven stories in height, with lofty basement under all and photographic gallery on the roof, fitted up with the latest improved apparatus and appliances. The entire two upper floors are set apart for finishing, the remainder of the structure being utilized for the displaying, storage, packing and shipping of furniture. The main factory is one of the best equipped of the kind in the world, provided with ample steam power and a complement of machinery and appurtenances that embraces the very best of everything that can be profitably used in the manufacture of furniture. But even with all the resources named the company's necessities are more than they can accommodate, and the overflow of hands, machinery and work are sheltered for the present under the roof of the Mineral block, of which they occupy two sections, forty feet each, on the upper floors facing the river. The office and retail salesrooms require for their accommodation the entire three-story and basement brick building, Nos. 33 to 39 inclusive, Canal street, where is displayed the largest and most varied line of samples in high and medium grade furniture ever seen by buyers in this city, together with a vast stock of richly upholstered goods, curtains and draperies, designed for the local retail trade. The firm employs 450 people in all departments, pay in wages and salaries about $5,000 weekly, and transact a business averaging $700,000 per annum, shipping to every considerable town and city in North America, besides exporting to South America, Australia and Europe.

The American Carving and Manufacturing Co.

John Klosterman, Peter Meeusen, Manufacturers of carved bead and rope mouldings, carved panels, balustrades, etc. Nos. 64 and 66 South Front street.

The use of carved mouldings for the adornment of furniture, interior house finish and other novelties of woodwork is steadily increasing, and the art of manufacturing them is rapidly approaching perfection. The American Carving and Manufacturing company was established by Messrs. John Klosterman and Peter Meeusen on the first of last October with ample paid-up capital. The factory, situated at Nos. 64 and 66 South Front street, is a 4-story frame building, 100x200 feet in area, giving ample room for extension and increase of facilities, of which the firm are sanguine when the superiority of their products becomes generally known. Their machinery outfit is of the highest order, nearly all of special design and construction and of the most complicated kind, appropriate to the work for which it is intended. It is driven by a 40-horse-power turbine wheel, and five expert machine carvers are employed. The firm make specialties of carved bead and rope mouldings, carved panels, balusters, etc., in an infinity of styles and designs, and are prepared to fill orders at the shortest notice for anything and everything in their line, guaranteeing the finest machine carving at prices which will interest purchasers. Their business has been built up by the application of the principles of honor and fair dealing, and they have the confidence and hearty good wishes of all who have had business relations with them. They are now receiving a liberal share of the patronage of the city and state, and are bound to have a share of the business of the country at large, which they are in every way prepared to handle to the satisfaction of all who may favor them with their orders.

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ADD TO OUR RICHES

The Lumbering Interests of Grand Rapids.

DEALERS OF WIDE REPUTATION

Whose Investments Represent Thousands of Dollars—Their Peculiar Lines of Business.

Closely allied to the manufacture of furniture, in fact dependent upon it, is the vast lumber industry of west and north Michigan. The business has grown from small beginnings to be one of the most important bulwarks to our commercial and industrial prosperity. Below are given some of the details concerning the feature of our resources:

Don J. Leathers,

Dealer in pine lands, logs and lumber, No. 98 Monroe street.

Mr. Leathers, one of Grand Rapids' most noted and most popular citizens, began earning a livelihood at the age of 12 years, hiring out as chore boy in a lumber camp two miles south of Cedar Springs on the old state road. His daily duties began at 3 a. m., when he was expected to rise, build all the fires in the men's and cooks' shanties, awaken the cooks and teamsters, carry in all the water and wood required, shovel out roads through the snow to the stables, and at 9 o'clock go to "the Cedar," as it was called, for mail and to execute other errands. In remuneration for these small and pleasant services he received his board, which, however scanty and coarse, was liberally seasoned with kicks, cuffs and curses, no one feeling too poor to contribute a share toward the chore boy's enjoyment in that particular while things went right, but when they didn't he was simply overwhelmed with these evidences of the affection and respect in which he was held. He was subsequently employed by the late George H. White in a saw mill on Rogue river at $8 per month, and was still there when the civil war broke out, when he enlisted in the First Michigan engineers, with which command he was identified during four years and four months, the last year on detail at General Sherman's headquarters, under Gen. O. M. Poe, chief engineer of the department.

Mustered out in 1865, he returned home and went to work cutting logs in the lumber woods. In 1866 he scaled logs for Hackley & McGurrin, on the Muskegon, and the next year was employed in similar work for Johnson & Stockbridge, on the Kalamazoo, near Saugatuck. He was subsequently in the employ of various lumbermen until 1870, when, leaving William T. Powers & Son, he engaged in business for himself, buying and selling lands in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the south—a calling which he still prosecutes with vigor and success—and is besides interested in several manufacturing enterprises and the breeding of blooded horses, owning, with his associates, one of the most famous Kentucky stock farms. He is a director of the Gunn Folding Bed company and of the Peoples' Savings bank, president of the Grand Rapids Horsemen's association, and vice-president of The Grand Rapids Herald. Mr. Leathers ranks with the most liberal promoters of public institutions, public improvements, and every movement looking to the growth of the city and the development of her material interests.

D. A. Blodgett,

Manufacturer and shipper of pine lumber—Mills at Muskegon; office, No. 17 S. Ionia street.

Mr. Blodgett was a pioneer in the Michigan lumber business, having invested largely in government pine lands as long ago as 1852. Out of that original venture have sprung a variety of interests involving many millions of dollars. He has long been known as one of the largest and shrewdest land owners and operators in western Michigan; he still owns vast tracts in this part of the country, is now investing the surplus profits of his lumber business in Pacific fir lands and Georgia pine lands, and has expended large sums in the erection of factories and business blocks, the Blodgett building on Ottawa street being one of the largest and finest in Grand Rapids. Mr. Blodgett's two saw mills at Muskegon have a united capacity of 375,000 feet per diem; hitherto 70,000,000 feet per annum, valued at about $900,000, has been the average; but two of the mills will be abandoned after the present season and his principal scene of manufacturing will be Cadillac. At present steam to the extent of 225 horse-power is required to drive his machinery; 250 men are employed at the mills and 450 in the woods, and he ships in great quantities, rough lumber only, to all lake and Ohio river points.

Dennis Bros.

A. L. Dennis and E. E. Dennis—Manufacturers of and wholesale dealers in hardwood lumber. Offices, Rooms 207 and 209, second floor, Michigan Trust Co. building, corner Pearl and Ottawa streets.

The lumber trade—and more particularly the hardwood lumber trade—of Grand Rapids is deeply interested in the deepening of the Grand river connected to Lake Michigan, as such an improvement cannot but have a most important effect upon their business, both directly and indirectly. Among the leaders in this great industry is the firm of Dennis Bros., composed of Messrs. A. L. and E. E. Dennis, who occupy the commodious and handsomely fitted offices Nos. 207 and 209 Michigan Trust company building. Both members of the firm—energetic, enterprising young natives of Michigan, were formerly engaged separately, each on his own account, in the general lumber business, but two years ago formed their present copartnership with the object of manufacturing and selling hardwood exclusively. They now own about 4,000 acres of oak, ash, elm and maple lands in various parts of the state, 2,000 acres of which, recently purchased, is in Otsego county, where they intend to erect an improved band saw mill of large capacity. When completed and in operation this mill and their other sources of supply will enable them to put upon the market 15,000,000 feet per annum, most of which will be shipped to manufacturers of furniture in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New York and other eastern and western states, though they sell heavily to Grand Rapids and other Michigan consumers. This is a reliable house, dealing on the square with all customers, and deserves the confidence and immense patronage it enjoys.

The Michigan Bark and Lumber Company.

N. B. Clark, president; W. A. Phelps, vice-president; C. A. Phelps, secretary and treasurer. Hemlock bark, lumber and shingles; offices, rooms 18 and 19 Widdicomb building.

N. B. Clark came from Pennsylvania to Michigan in 1883 and invested largely in timber lands. Four years ago he was joined by Messrs. W. A. and C. A. Phelps, father and son, and the firm of N. B. Clark & Co. was established. A reorganization was effected in April last, and the present style—the Michigan Bark and Lumber company—adopted; capital $40,000. Messrs. Phelps are old residents of Michigan, long engaged in mercantile pursuits in Van Buren and Muskegon counties. They are thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of their present business. The senior is an enterprising, wide-awake capitalist, the junior a bright, progressive young business man, while President Clark's well-known sagacity and large experience are of inestimable value. The prospects of the organization are extremely bright, and the output already bids fair to greatly exceed in volume and value that of the old firm, the present capacity being 40,000 cords of hemlock bark, 8,000,000 feet of pine and hemlock lumber and vast quantities of superior cedar shingles. This company owns many thousand acres of choice timber lands in Kalkaska, Wexford and Oceana counties, where the cutting and stripping are performed by contractors. They also buy from other producers at the various stations along the Grand Rapids & Indiana, Chicago & West Michigan and Toledo & Ann Arbor railroads, and ship to various points in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and other states. They expect to transact a business of $500,000 the coming year.

F. C. Miller,

Manufacturer of boxes and box material, and dealer in lumber—G. R. & I. R. R., between Front and Court streets.

This enterprise was founded fifteen years ago by F. R. Blount, who in 1885 sold out to Blount & Miller. Mr. Blount retired three years later, and the firm became Miller & Stout. Mr. Miller, having acquired sole ownership by purchase, took entire charge in 1890. The yards and buildings, fronting the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad between Front and Court streets, cover about an acre and a half of land. The factory is a large irregular structure filled with appropriate woodworking machinery, and thirty-five hands are employed in the manufacture of boxes and box material of all kinds and in sawing and shipping lumber, of which about 3,000,000 feet is disposed of in the rough and manufactured state annually. Mr. Miller makes specialties of dressed and resawed stuff, nailed and lock-cornered boxes of every description for parking manufactured company offices. Business with trans-Atlantic countries. Orders for car roofing, siding, flooring, matched, dressed and resawed lumber receive prompt attention.

Mr. Miller has been a resident of Grand Rapids for thirty years, was formerly a prominent contractor and builder, and has a thorough practical knowledge of the lumber business, in which he has been actively engaged during the past seven years.

Rowson Bros. & Co.,

Contractors and builders. Manufacturers of and dealers in builders' supplies, etc., corner South Division street and D., L. & N. Railway.

Mr. John Rowson was the founder of this concern, which he established in 1881. Three years later he was joined by his brother James, and on the first of last January Mr. William Green was admitted and the present style adopted. The plant, situated at the intersection of South Division street and the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad, covers three acres of land and comprises a three-story mill 92x150 feet in dimensions, office, warehouse for the storage of fine work, 208x112 feet, and 5,500 square feet of sheds,

the remainder of the space being devoted to lumber yards. The mill itself is equipped in the best manner with improved planing, sawing, moulding and other wood-working machinery, an 80-horse-power steam engine and all necessary appurtenances, and the firm employs on the premises and elsewhere during the busy season about 135 workmen. During 1891 they executed work and sold materials to the value of $125,000, and estimate that this year's transactions will foot up $145,000.

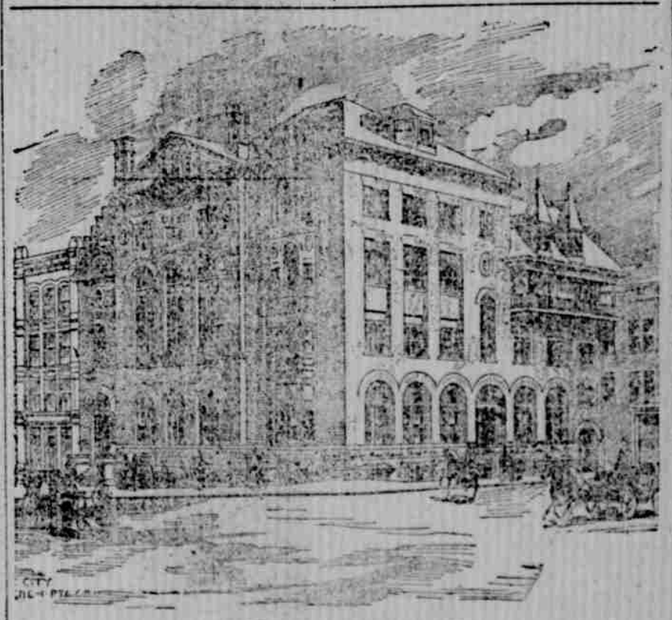
Rowson Bros. & Co. make leading specialties of builders' materials and supplies, including inside and outside finish, mouldings, sash, doors, blinds, door and window frames, stairs, bank and store fixtures, etc., and do every description of band, jig and circular sawing, wood trimming and lumber dressing to order. Besides doing a very large local business as builders, contractors and planing mill men, they ship heavily to all principal points east, west and north, with a large and growing patronage in Detroit, Denver and other growing cities. This firm is one of the best and most reliable representatives of the lumber and building trades in Grand Rapids. The Rowsons are from Port Hope, Ont. John came here thirteen years ago, and started in business on a cash capital of $165. James came here in 1872 and engaged in furniture work, and later the two united their skill and energy with most satisfactory results. Mr. Green, the junior member of the firm and an old builder, is also a capable, enterprising, practical business man. Mr. John Rowson was recently elected a member of the board of education.

Z. V. Cheney,

Dealer in lumber, lath, shingles, etc. Manufacturer of mouldings and interior finish, No. 79 Seventh street.

This important concern, which contributes largely to the volume of business transacted here, was founded by the Sisson & Lilley Lumber company in 1883. After some years they sold out to Dunham, Peters & Co., of whom Z. V. Cheney purchased early in the present year. The property comprises five acres of land lying along the Grand Rapids & Indiana and Chicago & West Michigan railroads, with which it is connected by a spur track, while the office is at No. 79 Seventh street. The mill is of one story, wood, 60x120 feet in dimensions, adjoining which are lumber sheds aggregating 20x450 feet, large yards, and a dry-kiln of ample capacity. A double 60-horse-power steam engine drives the machinery, which is of the latest improved style and quite comprehensive, and from fifteen to twenty men are employed. The output of mouldings and dressed stuff of every description is as large as that of any other mill in the vicinity. Hitherto trade has been confined for the most part to dealings with local builders and others, but it is the intention to extend operations to other cities, with which object the capacity is being enlarged. The lumber yards are at all times heavily stocked, and orders for rough and dressed pine, lath, shingles and dimension stuff are promptly filled at ruling quotations.

Mr. Cheney was formerly a resident of Sparta, this state, engaged in the manufacture of shingles, with mills at various points. Ten years ago he came to Grand Rapids and purchased a share of the business, the firm being then Sisson & Cheney. Subsequently he purchased the interest of his partner, and later disposed of a half interest to Mr. Lilley, the firm being Cheney & Lilley. Mr. Cheney is a native of Michigan, a young man of pleasant address and business ability, and is well and favorably known in the city and state.



Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.

Stow & Davis Furniture Co.,

G. A. Davis, president and manager; R. J. Stow, vice-president; F. D. Forbush, secretary and treasurer. Manufacturers of pillar extension dining tables and sideboards. Corner South Front and Watson streets.

The Stow & Davis Furniture company is the successor of Stow & Haight, established twelve years ago. Mr. Haight retired in 1884, having sold out to G. A. Davis, and on the first of January, 1889, the present company filed articles of incorporation; capital stock, $60,000. President, G. A. Davis; secretary-treasurer, F. D. Forbush. The works, situated on South Front street, at the foot of Watson, comprises two four-story frame buildings, 8x100 feet, containing a 60-horse-power steam engine and a first-class outfit of machinery suited to the work for which it is intended, and about seventy skilled workmen are employed. The output is large in volume and value, 100 to 125 cars, representing $75,000 to $80,000 annually, which is shipped to all trade centers east, west and south. The specialties embrace a very superior line of improved pillar extension tables in antique oak and ash, massive, artistic and elegant goods fit for a prince's banquet hall, and of the most beautiful finish. They also make hotel tables after any design, of any desired material and size, kitchen and practical business man. Mr. John Rowson was recently elected a member of the board of education.

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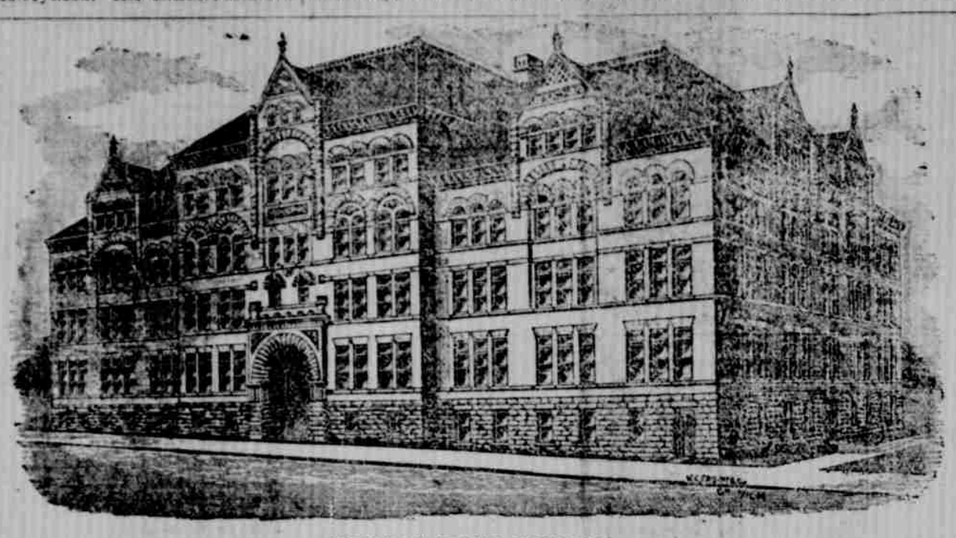

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

is Mr. George A. Pickle, formerly a grocer, later foreman of a department in Nelson, Matter & Co.'s, factory and more recently interested in real estate operations. About $18,000 is invested in their plant, which, situated at No. 308 Gold street, comprises two two-story frame buildings respectively 40x70 and 36x48 feet in dimensions, owned by Wm. H. Pettit, well provided with appropriate machinery and a 15-horse-power steam engine and employing fifteen to twenty hands, mostly trained experts in the manipulation of reeds and cane. The output ranges in value from $20,000 to $22,000 per annum and includes every description of rattan goods, though baby carriages, rockers and easy chairs form the leading specialties and are made in a vast variety of styles and patterns, to which novelties are constantly added. They are handled by the trade all over the United States and exported in steadily increasing volume.

J. W. Fox.

Manufacturer and dealer in all kinds of Excelsior. Special grades made to order. Office and factory, Nos. 73 to 89 Sixth street. Telephone 1252.

The use of excelsior as a substitute for curled hair, wool and other materials in the manufacture of matresses, cushions, etc., is steadily on the increase owing to its comparitive cheapness, which enables even the poorest to indulge in comfortable couches. The plentiful supply of suitable timber and other conditions render Grand Rapids one of the principal seats of the excelsior industry, and among the largest manufacturers in this country is J. W. Fox, who with F. P. Day engaged in the business as long ago as 1887. Mr. Day died in 1880, since which time Mr. Fox has owned and managed the concern alone, making many improvements and more than doubling the output, which now ranges in value from $35,000 to $40,000 per annum, and embraces every grade, from the finest to the coarsest. Mr. Fox's mills and storage houses, representing an investment of $18,000, are on the west side, extending from No. 73 to No. 89 Sixth street, and with the grounds cover a block and a-half. The buildings are two stories in height, with basement, equipped with special machinery and a 300-horse-power steam engine, and altogether constitute the most extensive and complete establishment of the kind we have ever visited. Twenty-two men find work here and receive wages to the amount of about $600 per month. The mills are capable of producing all the standard grades of excelsior at the rate of two tons daily, but a specialty is made of XXXX fine, for which orders are solicited. Shipments are made every day to every principal point in the United States, the Canadas, British Columbia and Manitoba. Mr. Fox is a Pennsylvanian by birth, a machinist by trade, and has resided here for thirty years. He had accumulated about $1,000 capital when, seeing an opportunity to invest it profitably in this industry, he did so, and is now, so to speak, "on the top of the heap." All the excelsior made here is thoroughly sifted and packed in bales of 100 pounds and upward.

Grand Rapids Furniture Co.

J. C. More, president; L. C. Stow, secretary and treasurer—Manufacturers of bedsteads, childrens' beds, etc., Butterworth avenue, between Straight street and River avenue.

The Grand Rapids Furniture company was incorporated in the autumn of 1876 with capital stock to the amount of $10,000, since increased to $52,000. President Jacob C. More is a well-known furniture manufacturer, a citizen of Grand Rapids for more than thirty years. Secretary-treasurer Stow, who is also the active and successful manager, was born and reared on a farm in Cascade township, this county. On first coming to the city he entered the Grand Rapids Business college, then conducted by the founder, Prof. C. G. Swensberg, at whose hands Mr. Stow received a commercial and general business training that fitted him for the battle of life, ready to take his place among men of affairs, and which has proved of greater value than riches.

The Grand Rapids Furniture company's plant comprises about five acres of land fronting Butterworth avenue, upon which has been erected from time to time a series of one-story brick buildings of irregular shape and size, covering all together space 150x320 feet, detached from which are the capacious dry-kilns and boiler and engine rooms, the latter containing a fine 150 horse-power steam engine. All proper precautions against fire are taken, the premises being always fully stocked with lumber—the finest in the city—and the working force now numbers 110, with further increase in immediate prospect.

This company's specialties embrace a general line of bedsteads for adults and children in medium grades, made in tasty styles from oak, ash, maple and elm—neat, durable and serviceable goods, such as are required by the great mass of people in moderate circumstances in both city and country, east, west, north and south, all of which sections are covered by their trade connections.

Grand Rapids School Furniture Company.

G. W. Perkins, president; S. W. Peregrine, vice president; William S. Hess, treasurer; C. J. Reed, secretary. Manufacturers of school, church, office and bank furniture, opera chairs, etc. Broadway, between Ninth and Tenth streets. Eastern office, No. 34 East Fourteenth street, New York.

In speaking or writing of the great leading industry of Grand Rapids, it should not be supposed that it is confined to household furniture alone, for it is not. On the contrary this city probably produces more and better fittings for places of public resort than any other. The most conspicuous representative of this branch of furniture manufacture is the Grand Rapids School Furniture company, whose works are situated on the west side. In 1886 Messrs. G. W. Perkins, W. T. Hess and S. W. Peregrine formed a copartnership and started in business at the corner of Ionia and Prescott streets, under the firm name of Grand Rapids School Furniture company. From the very start the enterprise was successful, owing to the fact that their goods were of the highest order, made on honor, and incorporated the latest and best improvements. Orders from all over the country poured in upon them, and in less than one year they found their facilities entirely inadequate to requirements, whereupon the present company, capital stock $300,000, was incorporated in 1888, and officered as above. Seven acres of land was purchased on Broadway, between Ninth and Tenth streets, upon which have been erected, so far, buildings as follows: A one-story foundry, 88x200 feet, and a machine shop 75x80 feet; two three story woodworking, fitting and upholstering shops, respectively 50x160, 45x200 feet; one of one-story, 64x100 feet, and a one-story finishing room, 71x80 feet. The machinery used is mostly of special construction, varied in character and enormous in quantity, the whole driven by a powerful steam engine. Four hundred and fifty hands are employed in all departments; $4,000 is disbursed in wages each week, and the value of the product for the present year will approximate $600,000.

The school, church, office and bank furniture made by this company is of the most elegant design, workmanship and finish, the materials employed the best obtainable, and the improvements such as to recommend it to all who care for comfort, convenience and durability. The opera chairs, church pews, school desks, office desks, office chairs, etc., of the Grand Rapids School Furniture company are fast replacing those of older and less attractive pattern everywhere, and most of the new theaters, churches, schools, banks, public and private offices in all the principal towns east, west, north and south are provided with them. Those interested should write for full particulars, which will be cheerfully furnished.

Bodelack & Vansclow,

No. 153 North Ionia street. Artistic and plain carvers in wood and plaster; also manufacturers of artistic interiors in stucco.

The designing and execution of fine wood carvings may be ranked among the regular industries of Grand Rapids, and any furniture manufacturer can testify to the important part played by those kindred arts in rendering attractive and salable the city's great staple production. Of the many skillful men who make wood carving their specialty none are better known or more highly respected, personally or as artists, than Messrs. A. C. Bodelack and Otto Vanselow. Mr. Bodelack, who was reared here, has become a recognized expert through twenty-five years of practical experience in the Nelson & Matter, Berkey & Gay, and Phœnix factories, and in New York and Boston, in his own carving shops—the latter established in September, 1888, with Ernest Frayer as partner. Mr. F. retired in February, 1890, and Mr. Bodelack continued alone until the first of November of the present year, when he formed a new copartnership with Mr. Otto Vanselow, a most artistic workman, lately arrived from Berlin, Germany. The workshop is in rear of Mr. Bodelack's residence, No. 153 North Ionia street, just north of the city hall, and is well equipped and sufficiently commodious for the employment of ten assistants. Besides executing in the best style of the art every description of ornamental wood carvings for furniture ornamentation, the new firm will give special attention to orders for architectural carvings, large or small, for facade and interior decoration, ornamental patterns for metal castings, etc. Promptitude, good taste, mechanical skill and superior workmanship are guaranteed. The stucco decoration is a new branch with them, and at a cost far less than wood carving produces an equally attractive effect and is much in vogue in fashionable residences.

They cordially invite all interested or contemplating to build, to give them a call, where samples of artistic stucco and plain carvers in wood and plaster; also manufacturers of artistic interiors in stucco.

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Stow & Davis Furniture Co.,

G. A. Davis, president and manager; R. J. Stow, vice-president; F. D. Forbush, secretary and treasurer. Manufacturers of pillar extension dining tables and sideboards. Corner South Front and Watson streets.

The Stow & Davis Furniture company is the successor of Stow & Haight, established twelve years ago. Mr. Haight retired in 1884, having sold out to G. A. Davis, and on the first of January, 1889, the present company filed articles of incorporation; capital stock, $60,000. President, G. A. Davis; secretary-treasurer, F. D. Forbush. The works, situated on South Front street, at the foot of Watson, comprises two four-story frame buildings, 8x100 feet, containing a 60-horse-power steam engine and a first-class outfit of machinery suited to the work for which it is intended, and about seventy skilled workmen are employed. The output is large in volume and value, 100 to 125 cars, representing $75,000 to $80,000 annually, which is shipped to all trade centers east, west and south. The specialties embrace a very superior line of improved pillar extension tables in antique oak and ash, massive, artistic and elegant goods fit for a prince's banquet hall, and of the most beautiful finish. They also make hotel tables after any design, of any desired material and size, kitchen and

Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.

the surplus profits of his lumber business in Pacific fir lands and Georgia pine lands, and has expended large sums in the erection of factories and business blocks, the Blodgett building on Ottawa street being one of the largest and finest in Grand Rapids. Mr. Blodgett's two saw mills at Muskegon have a united capacity of 375,000 feet per diem; hitherto 70,000,000 feet per annum, valued at about $900,000, has been the average; but two of the mills will be abandoned after the present season and his principal scene of manufacturing will be Cadillac. At present steam to the extent of 225 horse-power is required to drive his machinery; 250 men are employed at the mills and 450 in the woods, and he ships in great quantities, rough lumber only, to all lake and Ohio river points.

Dennis Bros.

A. L. Dennis and E. E. Dennis—Manufacturers of and wholesale dealers in hardwood lumber. Offices, Rooms 207 and 209, second floor, Michigan Trust Co. building, corner Pearl and Ottawa streets.

The lumber trade—and more particularly the hardwood lumber trade—of Grand Rapids is deeply interested in the deepening of the Grand river connected to Lake Michigan, as such an improvement cannot but have a most important effect upon their business, both directly and indirectly. Among the leaders in this great industry is the firm of Dennis Bros., composed of Messrs. A. L. and E. E. Dennis, who occupy the commodious and handsomely fitted offices Nos. 207 and 209 Michigan Trust company building. Both members of the firm—energetic, enterprising young natives of Michigan, were formerly engaged separately, each on his own account, in the general lumber business, but two years ago formed their present copartnership with the object of manufacturing and selling hardwood exclusively. They now own about 4,000 acres of oak, ash, elm and maple lands in various parts of the state, 2,000 acres of which, recently purchased, is in Otsego county, where they intend to erect an improved band saw mill of large capacity. When completed and in operation this mill and their other sources of supply will enable them to put upon the market 15,000,000 feet per annum, most of which will be shipped to manufacturers of furniture in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New York and other eastern and western states, though they sell heavily to Grand Rapids and other Michigan consumers. This is a reliable house, dealing on the square with all customers, and deserves the confidence and immense patronage it enjoys.

The Michigan Bark and Lumber Company.

N. B. Clark, president; W. A. Phelps, vice-president; C. A. Phelps, secretary and treasurer. Hemlock bark, lumber and shingles; offices, rooms 18 and 19 Widdicomb building.

N. B. Clark came from Pennsylvania to Michigan in 1883 and invested largely in timber lands. Four years ago he was joined by Messrs. W. A. and C. A. Phelps, father and son, and the firm of N. B. Clark & Co. was established. A reorganization was effected in