

Y. M. C. A. State Convention.

(Continued from page 5)

Wednesday morning G. W. Britt occupied the first half hour with "Exceeding great and precious promises." E. W. Booth conducted a conversation on "Bible class methods." Mr. Booth made a decided impression on the meeting by his earnestness and sincere words. The leading feature of the session was the paper and discussion following on the question "Can a Secretary take a positive stand against questionable amusements, yet be able to successfully win the society element of young men?" by E. F. Hall. The answer was in the affirmative, the sentiment being that it was the duty of the secretary to take such a stand. The committee on "Uniform membership" reported in favor of adopting a system making an unexpired membership in one association good in any association in the State. The officers elected at the business session were: C. S. Ward, chairman, Grand Rapids; C. E. Thomas, vice chairman, Lansing; C. C. Swift, secretary and treasurer, Kalamazoo. The conference closed with prayer for the convention.

THE STATE CONVENTION.

The opening session of the convention was held at the First Baptist church Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, with a fair attendance of delegates. The opening prayer service was led by E. W. Booth. Secretary Clarke called the convention to order and a temporary organization was effected by the election of E. W. Woodward, Owosso, president; C. D. Harrington, Grand Rapids, secretary. The president named the following committees: Nominations—C. C. Butlerfield, Muskegon; B. H. Constable, Ypsilanti; H. J. Yeldman, Holland. Business—S. K. McKee, Saginaw; E. C. Vanness, Port Huron; A. H. Garland, Grand Rapids. Superintendent—J. W. Simmons extended to the delegates, on behalf of the Owosso association and the citizens, a warm welcome to the city, expressing the wish that the convention might be a pleasant and profitable one. The response was made by Sec'y McKee, of Saginaw. Both were followed by prayer. The recognition and purpose meeting was conducted by C. D. Ransom, of Alma. Each delegate arose, gave his name, place where from, stated his purpose in coming and what he expected to gain in coming.

The evening session opened with a praise service led by Sec'y of Ypsilanti. The committee on nominations reported as follows: For president, Geo. R. Angell, Detroit; first vice president, J. W. Simmons, Owosso; second vice president, W. H. Sweet, of Ypsilanti; third vice president, A. S. Waldo, of Alma; secretary, R. C. Fenner, of Menominee. The report of the committee was unanimously adopted. President Angell not being present, Vice President Simmons presided, thanking the convention for the honor conferred.

The business committee reported a dispatch of greeting and encouragement to be sent to the Pennsylvania State association then in session. The same was ordered and forwarded.

John W. Hansel, of Chicago, delivered the address of the evening, subject, "Educational forces." Mr. Hansel has a pleasant way of putting things and is enthusiastic in the work. Short talks were made by H. G. VanTuyt, of Detroit; J. R. Mott, of New York and others on "The business man's interest in the work of the association."

FRIDAY.

The total enrollment of delegates Friday morning was 175—every one of whom came for the good he could do and receive. All were ready for hard work, all had the interest of the young men at heart. The papers read were all carefully prepared, showing much thought.

President Angell appointed the following standing committees: Business—S. K. McKee, Saginaw; A. E. Garland, Grand Rapids; J. B. Clough, Alpena; J. R. Mott, Lansing; W. F. Axtell, Three Rivers. State Reports—W. D. Farley, Battle Creek; C. D. Stewart, Owosso; J. L. Royce, Port Huron; Ralph Newman, Albion College; A. L. Parker, Detroit. Resolutions—H. P. Woodward, Coldwater; H. D. Dewey, Hillsdale College; C. B. Chaffield, Bay City, Bagley Harris, Flint; J. F. O'Keefe, Saginaw, East Side. Devotional—C. D. Harrington, Grand Rapids; E. E. Lobnes, Owosso; P. C. Goodell, Detroit. Railroad Department: Professor R. W. Putnam, Kalamazoo College.

Sec'y Vanderhoof, of Coldwater, gave the following paper:

WHY SHOULD A YOUNG MAN'S ASSOCIATION UNDERTAKE WORK FOR BOYS?

The ten minutes devoted to this paper would scarcely admit of a description of the multiplied number of diversified character of the Young Men's Associations of the land. So, with your permission we will enter at once upon the consideration of the implied rather than the expressed idea, and in a general way leaving the discussion to bring out the many details of the question.

The idea suggested by the wording of our subject can hardly be considered of greatest importance, and in fact only suggests the real thought and that of greatest moment to this convention and to our associations at work. Of course at this point may be a question, and that the question of our subject. Why should young men organized to work with and for young men, engage any time or thought in a work for boys, and so doubt many reasons could be proposed why even a Young Men's Christian Association might seriously consider the advisability of engaging in such work; and while this may be true yet only locally so. I think we are all willing to admit. It is true that all questions relating to the work and welfare of an association must necessarily be controlled by existing circumstances. An effort which one association might successfully undertake, under diverse conditions, might prove a complete failure attempted by some other association. Thus all questions of a local nature must be decided with reference to a careful consideration of existing local conditions. However general principles and suggestions may serve a practical purpose in the consideration and decision of local questions.

Much has been written upon this theme, and it has proven a fruitful subject for discussion, and in the past it has been to some extent a controverted question, perhaps largely with reference to ways and means. It is quite generally acknowledged that where practical this work should engage a part of our time and thought, we should be persuaded in our minds as to the legitimate place this should occupy in our already organized work. The importance of our question lies in the fact that many associations are larger, as well as smaller, than they realize the value and importance of boy's work as an adjunct or annex to our organized work for young men.

I fear that my limited experience can be of little value to our work at large. A glance into the faces of 40 or 50 bright happy boys, realizing the possibilities which time will reveal, the sound of the street, profanity and obscenity in contrast, and these from extreme youth, cannot fail to impress us with the responsibility which we must recognize and discharge. These contrasts are rapidly approaching manhood, and it lies largely within our power to determine the kind of men these boys eventually become. This is a many-sided subject. I have endeavored to consider it in its various aspects, and have been forced to conclude that it can only be answered in the light of Christian love and sympathy, and considered in its proper relation and trust sense when in possession of an essential element, love. Love to Christ and humanity as the inspiring motive and incentive to earnest endeavor and unselfish effort; for minus the qualifying adjective, Christian selfishness in some of its various forms, will be the incentive to action, notwithstanding the consequent result. Many reasons have occurred to me during the progress of my writing why we, as a young men's association, should do this work. Four in particular may be mentioned:

- 1st. Boys make men.
- 2d. Love for the boy.
- 3d. Because the Young Men's Christian Association is the only organization working exclusively for men as a class, and
- 4th. Because the very nature of our work demands it, its preventive feature calls for just this work.

These are in and of themselves sufficient to persuade us that this work is not only desirable, but important, as a necessary adjunct to that for young men.

organizations, while seemingly benevolent and broad minded, are nevertheless exclusive, only admitting to their number certain classes or conditions, and the restrictive character of the membership may be social, financial or physical rather than ours moral. These organizations have neither time or place for the boy, not designed to meet his special requirements, no special department in which his boyish inclinations and tendencies are consulted, where is afforded the sympathy which often times his boyish difficulties and peculiar temptations seem to require. For this he must seek elsewhere, and well for him that it is so, for without Christ and his love as the central figure and inspiring motive to pure thought and earnest endeavor, there could be no reason why such a young men's association should engage in such work.

But we can conceive of many reasons why we, as a Young Men's Christian Association, whose supreme aim to uplift young men spiritually, educationally, socially and physically, should.

A retrospective glance over the years of our lives will convince us of the rapidly with which our boys are becoming men, and again the question arises, what kind of men?

The boys of a few years ago are the young men of the present, about to enter upon the realities and responsibilities of life. Are they, as the result of proper training, prepared to stand the test of true manhood? They have developed, as it were, in a passing hour into the stature at least of men, with many habits, good or bad, firmly established.

The old adage, familiar to all, is a truism in deed, for as the twig of youth is inclined so will the tree of full manhood stand, either straight, tall, healthy, or knarled, knotty and bent.

Youth is the formation period for mind and body both may easily be molded and turned into desired channels. Even the misshapen body may be given its proper contour. I do not disparage the training of home, but I do regard the influence of mother—the love which a mother can bestow upon a child is almost beyond finite comprehension, and only is it surpassed by God's infinite love.

Thomas C. Diggs, speaking of boys, in the Era of some months ago, says, "Boys are very imitative—they will follow something and do something they have seen some one else do. If one boy has a top, that makes some other boy think of a top; if one boy has a penny blower in an incredibly short time every boy in town becomes possessed of one—of a desire to vie with each other as regards quality and quantity of tone. So it is with cigars, profanity and other vices of a similar nature and while not in the same proportion, yet to some extent is this true with regard to virtues. One boy may influence another to discard and avoid these things, may influence him to attend Sabbath schools, boys' meetings, and thus lead him to accept Christ. If this is accomplished, it must be the result of well directed effort, careful thought, wise planning and other means leading up to this result. This is a part of the work which the boy cannot do; older and more experienced heads must furnish the plans, enlist the sympathies and direct the effort; this is our responsibility. It is during this period of boyish activity and susceptibility to influences, good or bad, that special efforts must be made in order that when he reaches careful training, kindly counsel and correct ideas of true manhood instilled into his heart and brain. From the time of infancy, when are done and red topped boys experienced until the stern realities of life engage his mind, the boy in so far as may be is the counterpart of the man; you are a store-keeper and have a boy, you will specify him the whole back yard or possibly the dining or drawing room transients into huge stores, and so on, and so on, come a time as in the life of the older, when organization in its various forms appeals to him; he wants to join something and isn't very particular what. Sister is no longer companionable, that is to him. Mother does not know what a boy needs or wants, which amounts to the same thing in his judgment. Father has no time to devote to his boyish freaks and fancies. Now this is the boy who claims our time and attention in part, by no means in whole. Boy, but nevertheless in need of companionship proper, organization moral and helpful. If we would preserve the distinctive features of our work, its preventive feature, we must think of these things, we must provide for our boys. It is not only important, it is imperative.

It is true that many of our young men at the early age of sixteen or seventeen years are sadly in need of reformation and that radically so, which condition might be obviated by the fact of careful training and proper associates in earlier life. It is a well known fact that by far the majority who fill our jails, reform schools, penitentiaries and prisons are young men, proving that the work of prevention if begun at all, must begin early in the life of the individual. Our state and nation are realizing this fact and acting in accordance with it, in the establishment of our State public school for dependent children, and while these have a social, physical and philanthropic phase and aspect, so they have a financial consideration and a very important one it is too. Yet we must not forget this is not the reformatory while considering the preventive. "This ought ye to have done and not to have left the other undone."

In the course of correspondence with secretaries in this and other states, I have asked the question, "What are you doing for boys?" "Nothing," "We don't have time," "We have been the various answers given and if these are valid and can be sustained, and are impossibilities that cannot be overcome, then we must realize the impracticability of continuing our work for boys. However if these are only seeming impossibilities that by earnest effort and earnest prayer may be overcome or removed, and as we love the boys and value the best interests of the association in its work for young men, let us supply the facilities and take care of the boys. Our best workers may be developed from a legitimate source. Christ, in his busy three years of public ministry, found time to think about the little ones, to utter words of commendation and encouragement. It is my conviction that we are inclined to underestimate the value of the boy as compared with the grown up boy, forgetting meanwhile that the years in his life when possibly he receives the least attention at home and abroad, are most telling and trying, the most impressionable ones in his youthful life. By the grace of God let us do not less for young men but more for boys.

Sec'y A. L. Parker, of Detroit, conducted an "Illustrative Bible Class" to the satisfaction and profit of the delegates.

The reports from the secretaries of the associations in the state showed nearly all of them to be in a flourishing condition, increasing in membership and working ability. The Bay City association reported an increase in membership of 142 since April last, total membership 350. Ypsilanti, 110 members; Saginaw, east side, 305 members, an increase of 40 in the last quarter and newly furnished rooms and \$4,500 for current expenses; Marquette, 248 members, a gain of 68 within a year; Menominee, organized in January, secretary called in April, \$2,500 raised for current expenses, 65 members; Alpena, organized in January, opened rooms in April, membership 217; Coldwater has 245 members, a gain of 68 in the year, 15 conversions; Detroit association is flourishing in every branch. Kalamazoo has collected \$23,000 during the year for a new building and still has \$12,000 due, \$3,800 raised for current expenses; Battle Creek organized one year, has a membership of 204, work prosperous; Flint has a new building costing \$7,000 and has paid a debt of \$700; Saginaw, west side, has 155 members. The reports for college associations—Alma, Hope, Kalamazoo, Olivet, Adrian and Albion—were encouraging, showing what is being done for the young men who are students.

The afternoon session opened with a stirring address by C. E. Dyer, of Minneapolis, on the "Relation of American Associations to Young Men in Foreign Lands." Mr. Dyer also gave an encouraging report of the work in his city and St. Paul.

The balance of the afternoon was given to the four section conferences, the program as given being carried out with one or two changes. At 5 o'clock these sessions closed and the delegates assembled at Odd Fellow hall for

THE BANQUET

which was in charge of the ladies of the Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Episcopal churches, and well did they do their part of the work. Seats were provided for 280 persons, every one of which was occupied. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" was sung with a will. Rev. Little invoked the divine blessing and the delegates sat down to an elegant and sumptuous spread. H. S. VanTuyt, of Detroit, acted as toastmaster, and happily, too. E. Brown, of Chicago, responded to "The Homes of Owosso," urging a home for the Y. M. C. A. Professor Putnam of Kalamazoo told of "Brains." President George R. Angell of Detroit represented "The Modern Highway man," saying he would like to get into the pockets of Owosso business men for money to build an association building. "Hallelujah" was the theme of John W. Hansel of Chicago. He said the visitors

had reason to so exclaim. Edwin Booth of Detroit told of little things, "The Boys," speaking earnestly for this branch of the work. "The Iron Horse" was described by I. G. Jenkins of Detroit, who wanted a home built here for engineers who drive the steam. W. H. Sweet of Ypsilanti responded to "Infant Industries," W. D. Farley of Battle Creek to "Leaders," C. E. Thomas of Lansing told of "Hospitality," saying the North equaled his own state, Virginia, and the ladies of Owosso those famed for beauty in the South. Rev. E. B. Hancock of Owosso described "The Invaders." Every one of the responses was well received and the occasion was one of great merriment. A rousing vote of thanks was tendered by the visitors to the ladies in charge. Rev. J. R. Reitzel pronounced the benediction and the crowd adjourned to the Baptist church.

The address by J. R. Mott, college secretary, international committee, New York, awoke the greatest enthusiasm among the delegates. Mr. Mott is a young man of great ability, a pleasing speaker and one who carries conviction into the hearts of his hearers.

At the opening session Friday morning a dispatch regretting his inability to attend was received from Rev. J. M. Barclay of Detroit, and the one hundred and thirty-third Psalm cited as expressing his sentiments. Vice-President J. W. Simmons of Owosso occupied the chair in the absence of President Angell. The report of the credential committee showed 231 delegates in attendance. The first thing on the program was a "Workers' Training Class" conducted by John R. Mott. This was much enjoyed by the audience. A. G. Studer, physical director at Detroit, read a thoughtful paper on "Opportunities for religious work in the gymnasium." He thought more attention should be paid to this part of the work. He would put only Christian men as leaders of the classes. Many personal work should be done. Many conversions had resulted from such methods. He was closely questioned by the members as to his methods, answering all questions very satisfactorily. Secretary C. E. Thomas read a carefully prepared paper on the important question of "How can we make the religious work of our Association more effective?" "Consulting the Oracle," or the question box, was in charge of John W. Hansel of Chicago, who kept seven men busy answering questions.

The opening afternoon devotional exercises were in charge of Professor Haines of the Mining School, Secretary Van Ness conducted a conversation, "The status of women in the work of the Association." "Mutual helpfulness between State and local Associations" was the subject handled by I. E. Brown of Chicago in a masterly manner. The presence of this gentleman was a great help during the convention. The report of State Secretary H. M. Clarke was complete in every detail, touching all points of the work. He reported three new associations formed during the year—at Menominee, Alpena and Houghton. One had dropped out, Albion, leaving the number of associations thirty-one, a gain of two during the year. Twenty of these are in cities and villages and nine in colleges, one in a high school and one a railroad department. The number of paid officers a year ago was twenty-five employed by fifteen associations. There are now eighteen associations employing thirty-one paid officers and three temporary vacancies. During the year ten general secretaries, eight assistants and five physical directors have accepted positions in the state, either filling vacancies or taking new fields. Excellent progress was reported in the building line. Detroit Railroad Association has a lot paid for, plans ready and will soon let the contract for a building. Grand Rapids has let contracts for a \$20,000 home. Prospects are good for a building at Alma College. Six district conferences were attended by 235 delegates and twenty-three conversions are reported as one of the results. Special work in preparation for an association at Negaunee, Iron Mountain, Adrian and Hancock. A summary of Mr. Clarke's work showed that he traveled 15,023 miles, made 116 visits at 53 places, made 43 public addresses, conducted 30 gospel meetings, attended 110 committee and board meetings, wrote 1,908 letters and posted, and mailed 3,333 other pieces of mail matter, and assisted directly in raising \$10,000 for association purposes. In closing his report the secretary expressed his gratitude to God for the earnest, prayerful interest of the association members in the work committed to his charge and for the love and loyalty of the secretaries of the state.

The report of the executive committee presented by H. G. VanTuyt necessarily covered much the same ground as Mr. Clarke's report, concluding with a word of commendation to the faithfulness and ability of H. M. Clarke, state secretary. It also recommended that he be retained at a salary to be determined by the state committee, that H. M. Fillebrown, of Battle Creek, be employed as assistant state secretary, his salary and duties to be determined by the same committee; that every association as such contribute to state work, regardless of sums paid by individuals; that the student deputation work which accomplished so much at small expense be continued; that this convention, in uniformity with hundreds of other religious bodies, take suitable action regarding the closing of the "World's Columbian Exposition" on Sunday, and that a pledge be made to pay \$5,000 for the work the coming year.

The report of W. H. VanSyckle, state treasurer, showed the total amount pledged for state work, including unpaid pledges of 1890, to be \$3,390.75; amount paid in, \$2,323.75; leaving outstanding \$1,067. Of the amount paid in \$989 was from association pledges, \$1,334.75 from individuals, \$516.13 from district conferences. The disbursements included expenses state committee, \$94.41; district conferences, \$237.47; student's work, \$135.18; stationery and printing, \$194.95; salary and expenses state secretary, \$2,305. The balance on hand is \$189.89. The committee on state reports commended the action of the state executive committee in strengthening existing organizations rather than the development of new fields; commended State Secretary Clarke on his faithful work and excellent report. It also most heartily approved of the several recommendations of the executive committees. The committee recommended as members of the state executive committee for three years: Hon. F. W. Wheeler, of West Bay, City; W. H. Gilbert, of Saginaw, Clay H. Hollister, of Grand Rapids; C. A. Gower, of Lansing, and C. S. Ensminger, of Owosso. The report and recommendations of the committee were unanimously approved by the convention.

The "Great Giving Service" was in charge of I. E. Brown, of Chicago. The service was divided into three heads: "Giving thanks," conducted by J. W. Hansel; "Giving Ourselves," led by C. E. Dyer; "Giving Our Money," Mr. Brown. It was a season of deep thought and prayer—all in all one of the most impressive services of the convention. The sum of \$2,000 was pledged for state work. The Bay City and Port Huron associations invited the convention to meet with them next year. The address in the evening was by Rev. C. H. Beale, of Lansing, subject: "The Bible the Book for Nineteenth Century Young Men." He was greeted by a crowded house and gave a magnificent address.

Sunday morning the pulpits of the several city churches were filled by the following secretaries: Methodist—T. J. Searis, W. H. Overton. Baptist—H. M. Fillebrown, C. E. Thomas. Congregational—A. L. Parker. Asbury—F. H. Clark, C. J. Vanderhoof. Disciple by two students from Hope College whose names we did not learn; Geo. W. Britt assisted at the Episcopal church.

In the afternoon a gospel meeting for men was held at the opera house, led by C. E. Dyer and J. R. Mott, with the singing in charge of J. W. Hansel. This was one of the best meetings held. The house was filled with men; the services impressive and grand. A meeting for ladies was held in the M. E. church conducted by Messrs. Van Ness and Woodward.

The opera house was packed in the evening to hear the address by Rev. L. Morgan Wood, of Detroit, on "The Seventy-five Per Cent." At the close only words of commendation were heard for the address and the speaker.

The Baptist church was crowded to its utmost capacity for the farewell service which began at 9 o'clock, with H. G. VanTuyt, the level-headed Detroit business man, in charge. It was a grand closing to a most successful convention. Among those who took part in the farewell exercises were Prof. Joseph Estabrook, of Olivet College; Prof. McElroy, of Adrian College; Prof. Haines, of the Michigan Mining School; Prof. Avan, of Albion College; Rev. Bancroft, Rev. Reitzel, Rev. Little, the several general secretaries, and a large number of the delegates. The association members then joined hands and sang "Blest Be the Tie that Binds," and President Simmons declared the convention adjourned.

From the East and the West, the North and the South,
Men come to Owosso with praise in their mouth.
For hustle and bustle this city will pass.
Few cities on earth can trot in her class.
As a furniture market she carries the flag,
And after her all other cities must tag.
Now again to the front with banners unfurled,
We show you the greatest Furniture Race in the world.

We are proud to be one of the important factors in this city. What you need to furnish your home, make it comfortable, pleasant and attractive is a matter of profound study to us. Our tremendous trade and thousands of well pleased patrons are good testimonials of how well we succeed. New and fresh

**DESKS,
CHAIRS,
COUCHES,
ROCKERS,
CABINETS,
BOOK CASES,
SIDEBOARDS,
EASY CHAIRS,
PARLOR SUITS,
BEDROOM SUITS,**

Constantly arriving. We buy them on purpose for you. None can dive deep enough to get below us in price, or soar high enough to get above us in quality or style.

Manufacturers of Upholstered Goods

WOODARD & NORTH,

102 N. Washington St.,

OWOSSO, - :- MICH.

Sowing the Seeds of Success with the Three Essentials of a Successful Business.

**ABILITY,
HONESTY,
CAPITAL.**

Call and See These Remarkable Requisites,

Jas. M. TOBIN & Co., 117 West Exchange Street,

The Only Exclusive

Paint, Glass, and Wall Paper House in Owosso.



**FOR—FURNITURE, UPHOLSTER
PICTURE FRAMES,
MOULDINGS,
MANTELS AND GRATES,**

Go to the Store Lately Occupied
By Geo. Black & Son 105 N. Wash.
St. where you can Always get the
Best Goods at the Least Cost.

Undertaking, Embalming and Fine Funeral Supplies
A SPECIAL DEPARTMENT.

WARREN WOODWARD.

CASTORIA

for Infants and Children.

"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ARCHER, M. D., 111 So. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 77 MURRAY STREET, N. Y.

The Wonderful "New Process"

The ORIGINAL Evaporating Vapor Stove. The only perfect New Process stove in the market. Made by the original patentees. It lights like gas, makes no smoke or smell, is Safe and Economical, requires no skill to operate, never gets out of order, always pleases and satisfies user. Call and see it.

THE LEONARD CLEANABLE REFRIGERATOR.

The most Economical of ice; the best finished. Has cleanable flues and double locks, closing perfectly air tight.

**THE SHEPARD
Lightning Ice Cream Freezer.**

Freezes quicker, easier, and makes more ice cream from a given quantity of cream than any other freezer.

THE GRAND OIL RANGE.

Has 34-inch circular wick, making 14 inches more flame than any other stove. Made in form of cook-stove, with oven inside.

Builders' Hardware, Paints, Oils, Eave-troughing, Etc. Call and examine our stock and get prices before you buy elsewhere.

R. G. CURRY