

THIRD REPORT  
(ANNUAL)

OF THE

Iowa Library Commission

1905---1906

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IOWA LIBRARY COMMISSION.

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MISS ALICE S. TYLER, *Secretary*.

MISS MARGARET W. BROWN, *Librarian*.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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TO HONORABLE ALBERT B. CUMMINS, *Governor of Iowa*:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on library conditions and progress in Iowa for the period of one year, from July, 1905, to June 30, 1906.

ALICE S. TYLER,  
*Secretary Iowa Library Commission.*

## STATE OF IOWA.

### LIBRARY COMMISSION.

Inasmuch as the time specified by the General Assembly for the presentation of reports of the various State officers and commissions was changed by the Thirty-first General Assembly from the odd to the even-numbered years, we herewith present an annual report of the Library Commission and a survey of library conditions in the State covering the period from July 1, 1905, to July 1, 1906.

During the year the Commission has held meetings as follows: Iowa City, July 22d; Fort Dodge, October 26th; Des Moines, February 15th. Members of the Commission have, in their official capacity, attended several library dedications during the year. The regular activities of the Commission have been carried on by the executive staff along the lines developed in previous years in library extension, traveling library, summer library school, periodical exchange, etc.

*Library Extension.* This term broadly includes the organization of new libraries, the reorganization or improvement of old libraries and the forward movement of library interests by encouraging higher standards for both trustees and librarians.

It is felt by the Commission to be of vital interest to the future welfare of the libraries of the State that the ideals of the work in these early years be established and maintained upon a high plane, hence emphasis in both spoken and written word has been laid upon the fact that public libraries are educational institutions. It is because of the educational value of a public collection of books to a community that taxes are levied to establish and maintain them. The entertainment afforded by current literature is merely an incidental feature of the work which should not be permitted to require too large a proportion of the funds or too large a share of the librarian's labors. The men and women, the boys and girls, who wish to share in the treasures of thought stored in "the books of all time," who wish information regarding the practical matters of every day life, or who desire inspiration and cheer for the inner



life of the spirit, these should be given the best that the resources of the library can provide, even though they may be in the minority and do not clamor so loudly as do those who seek entertainment only.

*Library Legislation.* The Thirty-first General Assembly gave consideration to matters pertaining to library development by the enactment of a law to extend the benefits of free public libraries to residents outside the corporate limits of the town or city in which the library is located. This law provides that township trustees, or county supervisors or town councils may contract with library trustees for the free use of books, and that a tax may be levied for carrying out the provisions of the contract. Unfortunately an amendment regarding the petition of freeholders makes the law inactive and it will be necessary for slight changes to be made by the Thirty-second General Assembly in order that advantage may be taken of the general provisions of the act. It is an important law and will be of the utmost value to residents in the country adjacent to a town having a good public library. Furthermore, the provision of the law would make it possible to develop a county system of centers receiving books from the county seat library.

By reference to the last report of the Library Commission it will be seen that the importance of raising the limit placed on the amount levied annually for library purposes was urged. It is gratifying to state that section 732 of the Code was so amended as to provide for the levying of a tax of three mills on the dollar in cities and towns having a population of not more than six thousand, heretofore the limit having been two mills. This will enable the many smaller towns having libraries to more adequately provide for maintenance and growth, especially in the purchase of more books. It affects 69 towns and cities. An amendment was made to the law relating to collateral inheritance tax by which public libraries receiving bequests are exempted from payment of the tax.

Section 729 of the Code setting forth the powers of library trustees has not heretofore contained an explicit statement as to the responsibility of the trustees for the erection of the library building but this section was so amended by the Thirty-first General Assembly as to place the responsibility for the erection of Carnegie or other library buildings upon the library trustees.

The need of additional assistance in the office of the Library Commission was plainly evident to the members of the Thirty-first General Assembly, who looked into the growth of the work and learned of the many demands from all parts of the State for the

aid the Commission is intended to render. Provision was accordingly made for the employment of an organizer to aid the Secretary in installing modern system of records in the new libraries and in revising those in the older libraries when desired. No aid the State can render the small libraries is of more importance than this, as it enables them to be conducted thereafter on a sound business basis. The designation of the position of Librarian of traveling library was a belated recognition of the importance of this work which has been developed and carried on by Miss Brown of the Commission staff; this adjustment made it possible to secure additional help for the position of clerk, which will include the stenographic work and bookkeeping. The large volume of correspondence made necessary by the character of our work makes the addition of help for this work very welcome and the Commission expresses appreciation for the response made by the legislative committee to their request for the additional help and the slight adjustment of salaries.

*State Institution Libraries.* Probably the most important library event of the year in the State was the decision of the Board of Control of State Institutions to employ a Supervising Librarian to organize and develop the libraries in the fourteen institutions under their charge. These consist of the Soldiers' Home, Soldiers' Orphans' Home, School for Deaf, College for the Blind, Institution for Feeble-Minded Children, four Hospitals for Insane, Hospital for Inebriates, Industrial School for Boys, Industrial School for Girls, two Penitentiaries.

Libraries have existed in a more or less unorganized condition in most of these institutions, but heretofore no systematic efforts have been made to place them on a modern basis. The Library Commission of Iowa has been greatly interested in some plan for developing these libraries, and both the President and Secretary of the Library Commission presented papers on the subject recently at quarterly meetings held by the Board of Control, which are attended by the superintendents or heads of all these State institutions. At the October, 1905, meeting, after a plan was outlined by the Secretary of the Commission for a systematic supervision of these libraries, it was unanimously voted to employ a Supervising Librarian, who should have the general management of the institution libraries in all matters of organization and service, the selection of books, etc.

The Board of Control selected for this important position Miss Miriam E. Carey, librarian of the Burlington public library for the

past six years. Miss Carey received her library training at the University of Illinois Library School, and, previous to that time, had had experience in teaching. By education and natural tastes, as well as by travel and broad reading, Miss Carey is well fitted for this work, to which she also brings the altruistic spirit.

No other State has heretofore undertaken the systematic development of libraries in State institutions under a skilled librarian, and it is hoped that Iowa, as a pioneer in this work, may offer a suggestive object lesson in this new and important line of library development.

In October of each year a meeting of the Iowa Library Association is held, this organization consisting of library trustees, librarians and others who are interested in library development in the State. The meeting in October, 1905, was held at Fort Dodge, and reflected, by the enthusiasm and the high character of the papers and addresses, the advanced condition of library affairs in the State.

*Library Buildings.* It is gratifying to report that of the ninety free public libraries in the State, seventy-three occupy buildings of their own; fifty-two of these are Carnegie gifts and twenty-one have been erected by local gift or special city tax levied for this purpose, the Des Moines building being erected entirely by local taxation. Of the remaining seventeen free libraries, seven have had the offer of buildings from Mr. Carnegie, and five have accepted and are taking steps to erect the buildings at once, one of the buildings (Tama) being almost completed. Additional amounts to augment previous gifts have been given to various places.

College libraries have received generous consideration also at Mr. Carnegie's hand, the library buildings being completed and occupied at Upper Iowa University, Fayette; Cornell College, Mount Vernon (for joint use of college and town); Iowa College, Grinnell, and the buildings being almost completed at Parsons College, Fairfield, and Simpson College, Indianola. Steps are being taken to meet the conditions of Mr. Carnegie's offer by Drake University, Des Moines; Ellsworth College, Iowa Falls, and Leander Clark College (formerly Western College), Toledo.

*New Libraries Established.* During the year a municipal tax for the maintenance of a free public library was voted by Clarinda, a Library Association having been organized during the previous year. Alden, where a Library Association has been in existence for twenty-one years, voted a tax a few years ago, but the levy has been too small to enable the board to make the books free.

Through the active efforts of citizens it is now possible to make it a free public library, though many obstacles have had to be overcome.

Children's rooms have been fitted up and opened in some of the libraries which have heretofore not had a children's department; among these are the libraries at Burlington, Ottumwa, Iowa City and Cedar Falls. Plans are also under way for the completion of the Des Moines building, which will include a commodious children's room.

Local library associations still seem to serve as the best means of creating library sentiment in a community and of making a library beginning which shall eventually result in a free library supported by a municipal tax. Such associations exist in many towns that will eventually be transferred to the list of free libraries, and their organization is therefore encouraged by the Commission as a desirable method of making a library beginning. A paper on "The Form of Organization for Making a Library Beginning" was read by the Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission at the meeting of the League of Library Commissions (a national organization) July 1, 1906, at Narragansett Pier, R. I., and is presented herewith as an appendix to this report.

The Iowa Library Commission continues to keep in touch with the general library progress of the country as represented in co-operative work and through national library organizations. The Secretary attended the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the American Library Association at Narragansett Pier, June 29th to July 6th, and also the meeting of the affiliated organization, the League of Library Commissions at the same time and place. She appreciates the honor that came to her and the Commission she represented, of being elected President of the latter organization, the next annual meeting of which will be held at Asheville, N. C., in May, 1907.

*Need of Extension.* While there is reason for congratulation regarding the growth of the library sentiment in Iowa, there is still a large field for endeavor before all parts of the State are even reasonably well provided with public collections of books accessible to all. There are twenty-five counties in Iowa within whose borders no free public libraries under the State law exists. Thirty-nine county seat towns are without free public libraries, though in thirteen of these provision is made for books, either by a library association, club or other organization, or the Traveling Library.

There are six towns and cities of over 3,000 population without libraries maintained by municipal tax, as provided by the State



law. Two of these, Oelwein and Creston, having large railroad populations, would seem specially in need of such an institution, while Red Oak, though not quite as large as these, is also one of the thriving cities without a free library. The remaining three have a population of between 3,000 and 4,000, viz: Belle Plaine, Decorah and Knoxville. A large number of towns with between 2,000 and 3,000 population, should also be added to the free public library list, viz: Bloomfield, Emmetsburg, Glenwood, Hamburg, Harlan, Ida Grove, Lake City, New Hampton, Osceola, Sac City, Villisca, Waukon, What Cheer.

*Commission Rooms.* In planning the new Historical building the needs of the Library Commission for adequate quarters were considered by the Executive Council, and the ground floor of the east wing of that building has been assigned to this department; it is expected that the rooms will be ready for occupancy before the close of the year 1906.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION.

The natural development of the work of library advancement in the State along the lines, where the need was most apparent, has led to the classification of the work according to the special field of activity.

*Summer Library School.* The sixth session of the Iowa Summer School for Library Training was held in connection with the summer session of the State University, June 18 to July 28, 1906. The school is under the joint auspices of the Library Commission and State University, the Secretary of the Commission being the Director and the Librarian of the University, Mr. Malcolm G. Wyer, the Resident Director. The part this school has had in the onward progress of library affairs in Iowa during the past five years cannot be overlooked, when we consider what a large share librarians who have attended this school have had in fixing the standards of library service in their respective communities.

The instructors for the session of 1906 were: Miss Maude Van Buren, cataloging and related subjects; Miss Edna Lyman, library work with children, and Miss Irene Warren, classification and related subjects and a special course on school libraries. This new course was given for teachers and others in attendance at the summer session in other departments, on the care and use of

libraries from the teacher's standpoint. The course was not a technical one, as regards records and other matters of library detail, but was one of methods of making the books of use. The fact that Iowa has a law which provides that libraries shall be purchased in every school district makes it of the greatest importance that the teachers shall know how to make the books of the greatest service, both in the school room and for general reading. The "List of Books for School Districts of Iowa," recommended by the State Board of Educational Examiners, was used in the class.

Miss Irene Warren, librarian of the School of Education, University of Chicago, who gave the instruction, is well equipped for this work, combining the knowledge and experience of both a librarian and a teacher. The following subjects were discussed: How a tool is made; the use of books as tools; distinction between reading a book and using a book; some of the best general reference books for the school, based on the Iowa list; the training of the children in the care of books, both in homes and in public institutions; the organization and management of a school library, including records, classification, regulations for users, etc.; the use of pictures, their collection and arrangement; libraries as helpful forces for the school and the individual; various organizations for advancing library work, such as Library of Congress, A. L. A., N. E. A., and State commissions and associations.

Lectures were given by visiting Iowa librarians and members of the Library Commission, and the use of the public library of Iowa City for loan desk practice and children's work was greatly appreciated.

A visitor's day was a new feature this year, and many librarians and trustees within a radius of 100 miles came to enjoy and take part in the program. Mr. Purd B. Wright, librarian of the Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo., contributed largely to the value of the program, speaking in the forenoon on "Advertising a Library," and in the afternoon on "The Trustee and His Problems." President MacLean and other members of the Commission gave brief talks, and Miss Lyman spoke on "The Purpose of the Story Hour" for children, illustrating her talk by two charmingly told stories.

The students in attendance during the session of 1906 were as follows:

Alexander, Mabel.....	Marion, Iowa.....	Public Library
Bagby, Adeline.....	Paducah, Ky.....	Public Library
Barker, Carrie O.....	Hampton, Iowa.....	Public Library

Cook, Estella.....	Chariton, Iowa.....	Public Library
Curtis, Edna L.....	Jerseyville, Ill.....	Public Library
Davis, Minnie.....	Marion, Iowa.....	Public Library
Detrick, Estella.....	York, Neb.....	Public Library
Espy, Florence M.....	Fort Madison, Iowa.....	Public Library
Hayward, Hazel.....	Mason City, Iowa.....	Public Library
Hill, Grace.....	Grinnell, Iowa.....	Iowa College Library
Hosford, Mrs. Amanda E. Monticello, Iowa.....		Public Library
McMullin, Mrs. J. R.....	Stuart, Iowa.....	Public Library
Miller, Julia H.....	Somerset, Ky.....	School Library
Patrick, Mrs. Maud L.....	Iowa City, Iowa.....	University Library
Van Vliet, Carolyn.....	Pella, Iowa.....	Public Library
Weaver, Starr.....	Fort Smith, Ark.....	Public Library
Webster, Ida.....	Lincoln, Ill.....	Public Library
*Barrett, Margaret.....	Cedar Rapids, Iowa.....	Public Library
*Laurence, Helen.....	Davenport, Iowa.....	Public Library

*Periodical Exchange.* This method of aiding libraries in collecting sets of standard periodicals continues to be fruitful in results. Contributions of volumes and single numbers come to the Commission from all parts of the State, and in turn this collection is drawn upon by many libraries in filling in missing volumes and numbers of their files of magazines. No expense is attached to this except the payment of express or freight on the part of the recipient, and hence valuable sets of magazines for reference to be used in connection with Poole's Index are being built up in many libraries with little cost other than binding.

During the one year covered by this report 1,079 complete volumes and 2,084 single numbers of magazines have been sent out, making a total of 8,558 magazines.

### TRAVELING LIBRARY.

The work of the Traveling Library continues to show marked advance. This plan for the distribution of books from a State center, has proved of inestimable value to many communities in the State, as evidenced by the daily expressions of appreciation and the ever increasing use of the books.

The collection of books consists of two groups, i. e.: (a) regular 50-volume libraries, consisting of books in the various classes of literature; these remaining in fixed groups for general reading; (b) open shelf collection, arranged by subject and drawn upon

\*For Children's course only.

in varying numbers to supply requests for books on special subjects.

*Gifts.* The Traveling Library has been the recipient of three libraries, contributed by the club women of the State, whose interest in the work of the Library Commission, especially in its Traveling Library, has always been active and helpful.

The Spencer Woman's club contributed a library on Russia, and the Study clubs of Council Bluffs one on Household Economics, both of these libraries being contributed during the period when Mrs. A. R. Woodworth was Chairman of the Library Committee of the I. F. W. C., and actively interested in this practical method of co-operating with the Commission.

More recently the Monday Club of Dubuque has given a 50-volume library for general reading, the President, Mrs. D. N. Cooley, being active in providing this library with the desire that it shall be loaned where it may serve as the nucleus of a public library.

*Subject Libraries.* The open shelf collection, from which libraries are made up on special subjects to suit the specific need of study clubs, farmers' organizations, debating societies, or individuals, has been drawn upon extensively in the past year.

Reference and research work has been carried on along many lines and libraries sent out covering many and diversified subjects, including direct primaries, direct legislation, popular election of senators, immigration, industrial arbitration, employer's liability laws, trades unions, irrigation, taxation, tariff, trusts, municipal ownership, industrial education, government regulation of railroads, government ownership of railroads, food adulteration.

A Boys' Club, taking cross country walks in winter, studying under the guidance of an interested young minister, "How to know the trees in winter;" the young man working for his degrees in an eastern college; the students preparing for high school debates and graduating essays, all have called on the Traveling Library for help, while the many study clubs of the State have used the books largely to supplement their courses of study. The Program Committee, I. F. W. C., has co-operated with the Traveling Library by supplying carefully prepared outlines for study clubs on American short story, Arthurian legends, the Brownings, Dante, Emerson, the English novel, George Eliot, Hawthorne, Kipling, Longfellow, Lowell, Shakespeare, Stevenson, Studies in American Poetry, Tennyson, Thackeray, Brief Survey of France, En-



glish history, Iowa, Modern Russia, Our New Possessions, Italian masters, Arts and Crafts, Village improvement, Domestic Science.

Reference lists are prepared for these outlines and the Commission has purchased the books for the Traveling Library to supply this need so far as funds available for this purpose permitted.

*Books for the Blind.* No patrons of the Traveling Library have shown a deeper appreciation than the blind, who have made use of the books in New York point. This collection consists of fifty-four titles, including Webster's dictionary and a few simple primers for beginners.

There are thirty-seven agreements on file for use of the books, and the books have been loaned 220 times in the last year. A number of the readers are students in the Iowa College for the Blind, and use the books only during vacation. The isolation of this class of readers and inability to communicate directly with them, makes the growth of the work depend largely upon the efforts of interested individuals. In some instances, by encouragement and help, adults have learned to read the New York point system, by the use of the primers, and have found a new world open to them through the avenue of books, and it is hoped that those who can be of service to such will serve as the medium through which the books for the blind in the Traveling Library may be brought to their attention. The postal law permits these books to be sent through the United States mail absolutely free of postage.

*Summary.* For the period of one year covered by this report, the condition of the Traveling Library work has been as follows:

Total number of volumes in Traveling Library collection, 14,763. Of these, 6,850 volumes are in fixed collections for general reading, and 7,913 are in the general loan collection, which includes all books in the open shelf collection for subject use and the school district collection for use in rural schools.

There are 360 centers now in agreement for the use of the Traveling Library. These centers are located in ninety-two counties; only seven counties have not taken advantage of the Traveling Library.

There were 550 libraries sent out during the year and the reported use of the books is 30,422.

These figures do not show fully the use made of the books, as it is difficult to secure full reports from the centers.

#### LIST OF TRAVELING LIBRARY CENTERS ADDED DURING THE YEAR

Albia	Farrar	Minburn
Anthon	Geneva	Montgomery
Armstrong (2)	Gilman	Mount Pleasant
Atlantic	Glenwood	Newhall
Belmond (2)	Glidden	Oelwein
Burchinal	Granger	Ogden
Buxton	Grimes	Olin
Cambridge	Griswold (2)	Osceola
Carbon	Hamlin	Panora
Casey	Harlan	Red Oak
Clarence	Hedrick	Spencer
Clarinda	Henderson	Shelby
Clearfield	Ireton	Spring Hill
Colfax	Janesville	Storm Lake
Dallas Center	Jefferson	Templeton
Denison	Lake City	Traer
De Sota	Lamoni	Truro
Drakesville	Lanesboro	Van Meter
Elgin (2)	Lime Springs	West Branch
Essex	Lu Verne	Whittier
Ewart	McGregor	Zearing
Fairfield	Maquoketa	

#### FORM OF LIBRARY ORGANIZATION FOR A SMALL TOWN MAKING A LIBRARY BEGINNING.\*

By ALICE S. TYLER, *Secretary Iowa Library Commission.*

[Reprinted from The Library Journal, December, 1906.]

The awakening of one or two individuals to the possibilities for good afforded by a public collection of books marks the beginning of the library movement in that town. These men or women may have formerly lived in a town having a flourishing library, and recalling the pleasure and benefit derived from it begin to wonder why such privileges may not be provided in the new home. Or some one who has grown up in the community hears of the work being done by the library in a neighboring town and asks why Pleasanttown can not do the same; or, as frequently happens, a woman's club has been organized in the town, a representative goes to the meeting of the State Federation, hears of the interest other club women have had in the founding of a local library, and, feeling the need of books for club study and knowing the dearth of good literature for her boys and girls who are growing up, joins with others in the effort to provide a collection of books for general use. Whatever may be the cause of the interest which marks the beginning, the little seed has been sown and begins to grow.

In considering the topic assigned me, "What form of library organization is most desirable for the small town." It is, of course, necessary first of all to agree upon the meaning of the words "small town." In

\* Read before the League of Library Commissions, Narragansett Pier, July 2, 1906.

Iowa a community having a population of two thousand inhabitants or less is termed a town, and for small town I will assume that we agree upon interpreting it to mean a population of one thousand or less. With this group of people, having the ordinary advantages of school and church, what is the best method by which both young and old may be provided with the books that may inspire and cheer, inform and uplift both individual and community life? It does not seem necessary in this company to discuss the important function this library should fulfill in the life of the people; the mission of the book has been set forth so ably and so frequently in all library meetings that it would be indeed "carrying coals to Newcastle" to attempt it here. It is, however, well for us to remember that, while there is a surfeit of cheap literature that seems to have reached the smallest hamlets and villages, the need is as great as it ever was for the best books to be made accessible to those who do not yet know the "books of all time."

This group of people in the small town desiring to provide a public collection of books will probably follow the "line of least resistance" in making the beginning. Considering the prejudices, church affiliations, rivalries, etc., that exist in almost every town, what is likely to be the basis of the movement for a library? It will probably take one of the following forms:

1. Enlargement of the meager school library.
2. A church reading room.
3. Woman's club or town federation library.
4. Library association or subscription library.
5. Free public library, supported by taxation.
6. Traveling library center or station.

There may be and probably will be combinations of two or more of these into one plan, and if there is a state or county system of traveling libraries there would be in any of the plans suggested, the probability of the use of the traveling libraries.

Considering the forms in the order mentioned: First, the enlargement of the meager school library—this has been occasionally resorted to because the few books serve as a nucleus, they in some instances having been found to be of little service in the school-room, while for the general public they might be of value. Poorly selected, ill adapted to the use for which they are intended, with no one especially concerned as to their care and use, locked up and of no use to any one during the three months' vacation, they are indeed serving a good purpose if some of these dusty, neglected books in the school collections are made the nucleus of a public collection for the entire town. This, however, is rarely done.

The second plan—a church reading room—is one which is usually suggested by some enthusiastic pastor who is genuinely concerned regarding the young people of his church and town, and is generous enough to open a room in his church for this purpose. My observation has been that this is an unwise and undesirable method, as it is likely to be immediately combatted either secretly or openly by denominational opposition or jealousy on the part of other churches, and will not be likely to attract into the circle of its influence those who may not be

identified with orthodox churches, or the unformed boys and young men who might be reluctant to use freely a library thus located.

The third—a movement on the part of a woman's club or a federation of all the clubs in the town to found a library—is a method that has been tried in several towns in our State. The organizations being already in existence, active, and committed to altruistic and civic work, find in the public library a cause that appeals to its members strongly and to which they are willing to give enthusiastic labor. After close and sympathetic observation of this method of making a library beginning, I believe that it is not the best plan, because of the fact that it confines the movement to a limited group of workers. Sometimes, too, it encounters a spirit of jealousy and criticism on the part of those outside the club that is not conducive to the forwarding of a large public movement such as a library should be—to include all ranks and conditions, regardless of age, sex, or social standing.

The fourth plan—a library association or subscription library—is a popular method of making a beginning when properly understood. The few who see the need of a library and plan to accomplish its organization, believing that it should be for *all* the people, call a meeting for the express purpose of discussing ways and means of providing a public library for the town. Notices of this meeting are sent to all churches, schools, clubs, lodges, etc., where people congregate, and are printed in the local newspapers so that all are given the opportunity of having a part in it. At this meeting, after addresses and discussion, it is voted that a library association shall be formed for establishing and maintaining a public library. Committees are appointed to recommend a basis of organization and on providing a book fund, and the movement takes form in a few weeks or months with a fund for the purchase of books and a specified annual membership fee which shall provide (probably very meagerly) for running expenses. With many variations, with discouragements and struggles, it is nevertheless an oft-tried and satisfactory method of making a beginning, the association affording an organization through which to work toward a tax-supported library.

But in each of the four plans mentioned by which a beginning may be made there is always and persistently and depressingly the question, "How are libraries begun in this manner to have sufficient funds even to barely exist, much more to grow?"

And this is the fundamental matter after all—money. Whence shall the funds come? The church plan, the club plan, the school plan, the association plan—all are dependent on the spasmodic and irregular support that results from the labors of a soliciting committee using persuasive arguments with business men and others. There are certain expenses that are absolutely essential—books first and most, a room for which, probably, rent must be paid (though some generous citizen may give the use of it), periodicals to be subscribed for, heat, light, table, chairs, etc., besides the most important feature of the whole scheme—the librarian.

Shall the use of the books be free? or, in this period of beginning, shall each person pay an annual fee or a rental for the use of the books? If an attempt is made to make the library absolutely free,



on the basis of any one of the four plans suggested, there must be back of the movement a very active and probably much worried finance committee struggling with entertainments, suppers, lecture courses, subscription lists, etc., to provide the "ways and means."

The fifth form of organization is the tax-supported free public library. Is it desirable that the small town shall in its beginning in library matters attempt at once to secure a municipal tax to found and maintain a free public library under the State law? There are those who believe this is the *only* way to make a beginning. I am confident that I voice the sentiment of commission workers when I say that we are all agreed that eventually, if not in the beginning, the free public library on a rate or tax-supported basis is our endeavor. The point whereon there may be a difference of opinion is whether the movement might first be started as an association and by means of this association public sentiment created which shall provide for the municipal support. There is no doubt but that the amount from the tax levy provided by law for the maintenance of the library in most states would be so small in a town of one thousand inhabitants or less, that it would be necessary for a movement to be inaugurated to provide a book fund by some other means—in other words, the plant must be installed, and this requires money. Afterward the running expenses may be met by the tax levy. It is certainly true that the life of a library is precarious and uncertain until an annual revenue is assured by a municipal tax, but it would seem to be simply a question of policy as to whether this shall be the first step or not. In studying this question at first hand it has been observed that the first impulse seems naturally to be to solicit subscriptions for a book fund, and this seems a necessity whether there is a maintenance tax or not. A library association standing back of this solicitation for a book fund and back of the entire movement seems very desirable and, though temporary, has usually proven to be successful.

Now, what, we may ask, is the relation of the State library commission to this community? What has it to do with this small town desiring to make a library beginning? First, its advisory relations with the community should be such that it will aid that town in avoiding the mistakes made elsewhere in the form of organization and in methods of work. Surely the observations and experience of commission workers, who are provided by the State, should be at the service of every community in the State if desired. One of the points, however, that is always perplexing to the earnest commission worker is, how to help effectively. The cry of paternalism is not heard so much as formerly, but it is certainly a fine point as to how far the State shall go in aiding the local movement, and surely there must first be a desire on the part of the community.

But if it is the desire of but *one*, that is sufficient to bring the commission worker to the aid of that one in arousing interest. I would suggest that the effect of the commission worker's co-operation with the local movement is much greater if she comes on the invitation of the local leaders, and there is always a way to secure such an invitation.

This puts the commission worker on a basis where she can serve much more effectively.

It may save the club and the library movement from much tribulation if we can tell them of the disaster that came to one town because of the zeal of the woman's club to have the honor of founding the library, or of another town where a certain secret organization aroused the opposition of all other societies in town by starting a library and collecting over one thousand volumes for public use, or of another town where a "generous citizen" gave a large sum for a new church building on condition that it should have a library room included for the use of the town (which the members of other churches in town seldom enter). On the other hand, they may be told of the enthusiastic organization of a library association, the raising of a book fund of \$2,000, and the favorable sentiment immediately created for a municipal tax which resulted in a free public library upon that basis within one year. Such information and the details gained from experience as to just how the work may best be accomplished constitute a part of the preliminary work the commission may do.

Second, to aid in the selection of books. Certainly this function of the library commission does not need to be emphasized here. The utter helplessness with which a new library board or book committee undertakes the task of providing books for the new library makes it absolutely imperative that selected lists should be available that can be placed in their hands. The "Suggestive list of books" published by the League of Library Commissions is especially suited for this sort of work, also reliable lists of children's books, such as Miss Moore's "List of books for a children's library," published by the Iowa Library Commission; the Cleveland list, compiled by Misses Power and Prentice; Miss Hewin's "List of books for boys and girls," and others. The A. L. A. Booklist is also supplying this definite need of the small library for a reliable list of the best recent books, and this is furnished free (monthly) by most library commissions.

Third, to install a simple loan system and such other records as are absolutely essential to the orderly conduct of the library. This includes classification and shelf list, but not necessarily a card catalog.

Fourth, to provide the travelling library that shall augment the very meager collection of books belonging to the local collection.

This method of "State aid" is especially suited to the wants of the small town in making a beginning, but it also has the entire State for its field of activity, sending books to the remotest corners—the country neighborhood, the rural schools, the clubs, also loaning books on special subjects of study to the larger libraries. This fresh supply of books coming from this State center at intervals throughout the year may enable the local library to use some of the funds for a reading room as a feature of the work as well as the lending of books. In fact, I am inclined to say that if a suitable person is available for the position of librarian, the reading-room can be made a more powerful influence for good in the small town than the lending of books for home reading. The absolute lack of provision for wholesome diversion and entertainment for young people in the small town, the inclination of the boys to

loaf and lounge about the postoffice, the railway station, the tobacco store, etc., because there is nowhere else to go; these conditions make it extremely important that a movement to establish a library in a small town should include the reading-room, where the open doors, bright lights, attractive periodicals and interesting books invite and attract those who would not otherwise come under the influence of the printed page.

But the problem of the reading-room in the small town is one of maintaining order, without repelling, of cheer, welcome, helpfulness; so that the librarian's personal qualities are put to the test in such a position out of all proportion to the apparent interests involved. Over and over again do we see unselfish, cultured, devoted women, fired with the altruistic spirit, giving themselves to such service "without money and without price," and so we have the volunteer librarian—without salary—as one of the most important factors in many of the small towns making a beginning, and but for whom probably there would be no beginning.

Certainly all the interests mentioned in the opening of this paper—the schools, the churches, the clubs—should be concerned in providing the public collection of books for the town, but these should rise above the particular organization or interest which chiefly concerns each. Obliterating all lines of separation they may unite in service for the public good, working unitedly either for the library association or the municipal library as the first step. Without the support of these interests the work would be well-nigh impossible.

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## PART II

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### FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF IOWA

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## FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

### ALBIA.

During the winter of 1904-5 the citizens of Albia were solicited by a self-appointed committee for funds with which to start a public library, and the result was that pledges of about \$600 were secured. A Library Association was effected with Hon. N. E. Kendall as president, and in the spring of 1905 the proposition for the maintenance of a library by municipal tax was voted upon and carried; the women exercised their right to vote although the sentiment of the regular voters was favorable to the proposition. Following closely upon this the announcement was made that Mr. Carnegie had offered \$10,000 for the erection of a library building on the usual conditions. The funds in the hands of the board were used for the purchase of books, and a library organizer, Miss Alice Mann, was secured to organize the library according to modern methods of classifying, cataloging, etc. A room is occupied by the library in the basement of the new courthouse, where it will be maintained until the erection of the building. The library opened for the circulation of books January 3, 1906, with over 1,200 volumes on the shelves. A lot upon which the building will be erected has been donated by Mr. John Z. Evans, a generous citizen of Albia, and the building committee, of which Doctor Powell is chairman, expect to secure plans for the new building as soon as possible. The members of the Board of Trustees are: Hon. N. E. Kendall, president; Mrs. Louisa M. Anderson, Dr. C. B. Powell, A. C. Parry, Dr. C. G. Hoover, Mrs. Elizabeth Richmond, Mrs. Augusta Eschbaugh, Mrs. Mary R. Ramsay and J. S. Moon. Mrs. Laura M. Duncan is the librarian.

### ALDEN.

The Library Association of Alden was organized in 1882 and celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of its organization April 17, 1906.

The twenty-one years' history of this library organization is filled with the earnestness, perseverance and final success of an enthusiastic and intelligent little group of women, who, in the face of discouragement and without funds, except as it was earned through entertainments, founded a library and provided a building which was completed in November, 1891, at a cost of \$750. In March, 1892, at the annual municipal election, a tax was voted for maintenance of the library, but the levy

### PREFATORY NOTE.

The first report issued by the Library Commission, 1903, contained historical sketches of the free public libraries and illustrations of the library buildings then in existence in the State or in process of erection; the second report contained no illustrations. We have been passing through a remarkable era of library building in this State, the like of which will not be seen again. Of the ninety free public libraries in existence in the State all but seventeen are now occupying buildings of their own. It has seemed desirable therefore to include in this report illustrations of new buildings occupied since 1903.

The increase of the free libraries from seventy-seven in 1903 to ninety in 1906 shows a healthy and normal growth.

Most of the sketches given herewith are supplementary to those given in the First Commission report (1903), there being none included in the Second report.

was not sufficient to make it free and it was necessary to charge for the readers' cards.

Since 1898, from November to April each year, there have been readings in the library as auxiliary to the library work, groups of those who are interested, meeting at the library, where for an hour or more some one reads aloud from some book which has been decided upon by those who attend regularly. With the tax levy for 1906 increased and with the aid of friends the library is made a free public library.

During the summer of 1905 a vacation reading course for the children was established and well patronized; fourteen diplomas were granted at the close of the course in the fall. The library now has about 2,000 well-selected volumes.

The members of the Board of Trustees are: Mrs. F. E. Furry, president; Mrs. F. L. Spencer, secretary; Mrs. John Hosken, Mrs. L. B. Rogers, Mrs. L. H. Utley, Mrs. W. B. Lyman, Mrs. H. Robbins, Mrs. C. A. Birdsall, Mrs. O. M. Harp. Miss Florence Hill, librarian.

#### ALGONA.

In September, 1904, the fiftieth anniversary of the first permanent white settlement in Kossuth county was observed and the laying of the corner-stone of the new Carnegie library building was made a part of the anniversary exercises, September 29th.

Mrs. W. K. Ferguson, president of the Board of Trustees, presided. Prayer was offered by Rev. O. H. Holmes, after which Mr. S. E. McMahon, one of the trustees, spoke upon the realization of the work of the founders of the library enterprise, and of the library as a factor in the future development of the city.

Mr. McMahon was followed by Col. Thomas F. Cooke, of Des Moines, a life-long friend of the library, who reviewed the history of the library movement and paid a fervent tribute to the memory of the late Rev. E. P. McElroy, who for eight years had served as librarian, and whose work had done much to bring the library up to its present standard.

Mrs. W. H. Ingham, one of the trustees, who, with her husband, donated the lot on which the building stands, then read a beautiful poem prepared by her for the occasion.

The building was completed ready for occupancy in March, 1905. Patton & Miller, of Chicago, were the architects; Mr. M. Coan, of Algona, the contractor.

The style is English Gothic, the material Roman pressed brick with stone trimmings, and the fine foundation of native granite. The cost was \$11,000—\$10,000 the gift of Mr. Carnegie and \$1,000 that of Colonel and Mrs. Thomas F. Cooke, former residents of Algona. This amount covers not only the building, heat and light, but the decorating, furnishings, and the cement walks.

There were no formal dedicatory exercises, but on March 25, 1905, the building was open to the public for inspection. From 9 A.M. until 9:30 P.M. was a continuous line of visitors, who were met by the trustees and conducted about the building. The anticipations of the people were

more than realized, and only commendation was heard. Algona is justly proud of her beautiful little library.

The library was cataloged in 1905 by Miss Fanny Duren, of the Illinois State Library School, who began her work as soon as the new building was opened.

#### AMES.

The hearty co-operation of the citizens of Ames, both in interest and funds has enabled the Library Board to carry forward its work to an extent which far exceeds the expectations of the most sanguine supporters of the library enterprise. Ames is now the proud possessor of a centrally-located, good library building, furnished, well heated and lighted. The building thus equipped cost, aside from furniture, \$10,385. Best of all, however, is the library for which this splendid structure is a permanent home. The building was opened to the public with appropriate exercises, including an address by President Storms of the State College at Ames, October 20, 1904, with 1,121 books on the shelves.

Miss Lorena Webber, of the University of Illinois Library School, was librarian for the first year, commencing her work September 1st. She was assisted during the year of organization by Miss Kitty B. Freed, who is the present librarian.

The cost of the building above \$10,000 and that of the furniture has been met by the income from the city tax and private subscriptions, including gifts by societies, which have amounted to over \$1,300, the citizens also generously subscribing to the book fund secured by a committee of which Prof. E. W. Stanton was chairman.

#### ANAMOSA.

At the close of 1905 there were 3,360 books in the library, there having been 548 volumes added during the year. There is a growing interest and use of books as shown by a considerable increase in circulation. Careful attention is given to the selection of books, Miss Helen L. Shaw being chairman of the book committee.

#### ATLANTIC.

The Carnegie library building was opened to the public December 28, 1903, with appropriate exercises, the chief address being given by Judge Smith McPherson.

The library has fully proved its usefulness to the community. The number of readers is not at present as large as is desired in proportion to the population but it is steadily growing.

The citizens have been generous in their donations of books and magazines; the newspaper offices supply the town papers and the leading church papers are on the tables.

At present the books number 2,270. Special attention has been given to building up the historical collection, which contains almost as many volumes as that of fiction, the books having been carefully chosen. The



children's department is growing but as yet does not meet all the needs of that class of readers.

Miss Mary N. Adams, who was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the former librarian, attended the Iowa Library School, 1905.

There have been several changes in the Board of Trustees, the present members being: J. B. Rockafellow, president; Miss Anna O. Temple, secretary; W. A. Follett, Rev. J. George, Thomas Whitney, C. M. Cole, J. B. Wilkin, Mrs. Gertrude Gillette, Miss Emma Parsons.

#### BOONE.

The Ericson Library at Boone has made reasonably satisfactory progress. The total number of books is over 10,800; the circulation during the preceding year was over 15,000, of which 33 per cent were children's books. The use of the reference department was 3,000. The percentage of fiction shows a reduction for the preceding year. The value of the books is safely within \$17,000, which, with the value of building and lots, brings the investment to \$37,000, to which should be added the value of the historical department and its accompanying museum.

In January, 1904, was instituted a "Historical Department" in connection with the Ericson Library. Its aim has been the preservation of local historical data, including biographical material concerning its early settlers, and other persons of prominence. The files of local newspapers have been gathered, while current files have been kept up and bound. Especial attention has been given to the collection of books of Iowa State and county history; to the histories of Iowa regiments during the Civil War; to genealogical sets and early maps.

A beginning for a museum has also been made; a collection of mounted Iowa birds, including eggs, has been commenced by Mr. Carl Fritz Henning. There are shells, fossils, rocks and minerals. There is a display of interesting curios of old style domestic implements and an autograph case with one hundred slides well filled.

The public interest and the use made of the rooms by the school children seems to have justified this. Its attractions act as its solicitors, and visitors volunteer their contributions quite freely. As time and means permit it is hoped to make this department an epitome of the soils, rocks, minerals, woods, etc., of Boone county.

#### BURLINGTON.

A great shadow fell upon the public library of Burlington in the death of the honored and lamented president of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Philip M. Crapo, on September 20, 1903. His public-spirited liberality, his zeal for the advancement of knowledge, his taste for art and beauty and for enrichment of life in the community are enshrined in the library where they insure enduring honor to his memory.

Among gifts to the library mention should be made of that of three thousand dollars, to be known as the Potter Memorial Fund, received from the trustees of the fund, the interest to be expended from year to

year in the purchase of books and other literature relating to the construction and operations of railroads.

A children's room was furnished and equipped during the spring of 1905 and is now open for the use of the boys and girls. The Municipal League of Iowa, which held its meeting in Burlington in the fall of 1905, presented the children's room with about \$190.00, which will be used in improving the department.

The resignation of Miss Miriam E. Carey, the librarian, took effect March 1, 1906, she having accepted the position of supervising librarian of State institutions, under the State Board of Control. Keen regret was manifested by the people of Burlington over her departure. Miss Daisy B. Sabin, a graduate of Drexel Institute Library School, has been elected to succeed her.

#### CARROLL.

Early in 1904 the library was systematically classified and a card catalog made by Mrs. Maude Battis. But few books have been added from that time until the occupancy of the new building because of limited accommodations. The new \$10,000 building donated by Mr. Carnegie is now occupied by the library, affording facilities for greater use by the community. It is constructed according to modern ideas and is one of which the citizens are justly proud.

In the new building is a commodious reading room supplied with the principal periodicals.

#### CEDAR FALLS.

Since the dedication and occupancy of the new Carnegie building in September, 1903, plans have been under consideration to complete and finish the room provided for the children, and in the fall of 1906 rearrangement of the rooms resulted in the opening of a children's room, which is proving to be a most useful feature of the library.

A flagstaff was placed in front of the building soon after its erection and a handsome flag purchased.

There are almost 9,000 volumes in the library, of which about 3,500 are Government publications. The circulation of books for the year 1905 was 17,711. Miss Eunice H. Overman is librarian.

#### CEDAR RAPIDS.

The most important event since the first report of the Commission (1903) has been the erection and dedication of the new \$75,000 building, the gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie.

The architects, Josselyn & Taylor, of Cedar Rapids, the board and the librarian put forth every effort to make the building convenient and attractive. The many expressions of admiration indicate that the beauty of the library is thoroughly appreciated. The building was commenced in March, 1904, and dedicated June 23, 1905. The principal speaker was Miss Tyler, secretary of the Iowa Library Commission, who has done

much to help the library by her encouragement and good counsel. The day was perfect and the building was crowded at both sessions, the afternoon program being for the children. The presence of the Iowa Summer Library School, which was in session at Iowa City, added much to the interest of the occasion.

Among the gifts received at the time of the dedication was a beautiful flag from the Daughters of the American Revolution, a case of natural history specimens from Mr. W. E. Dean, and fifty-three books from Miss Ruth Taylor.

The building is a fireproof structure of buff-colored brick with Bedford stone trimmings and is located on Washington Park, opposite the High School.

While the building of the new library has been uppermost, the regular work of the library has been carried on with a steadily increasing circulation and a deepening interest on the part of the patrons. The weekly staff meetings and the apprentice class have been continued as usual.

The work in the children's room and with the schools has been most encouraging. The teachers are coming to look upon the library more and more as a very important factor in their work. Children of the grades have visited the library and have been taught how to use it. The Superintendent of Schools has a room in the new building and the teachers come to the building regularly.

A number of clubs hold meetings at the library and thus learn some of its advantages, and the Woman's Club with its many departments occupies rooms in the new building.

Library Day was observed as usual in March, 1904. The topic was "Local History" and suggestions given on that day have borne fruit in the formation of the Linn County Historical Society, with headquarters at the library.

The Princeton Club has an alcove in the new building where it is placing books about Princeton and works by Princeton men.

The Commercial Club has offered to co-operate with the library in securing material of value to the business interests of the city.

The semi-centennial of the city was celebrated in 1906, and the library was one of the centers of interest, an exhibit of relics and historic material connected with the settlement of the city being exhibited in the art room of the library.

The librarian, Miss Harriet A. Wood, was granted a six months' leave of absence for a trip to Europe, beginning in February, 1906, and during her absence Miss Julia Merrill was acting librarian.

A great loss came to the library in the fall of 1905 in the death of Mrs. C. D. VanVechten, president of the Library Board. Of her it could be truly said that her wise leadership and counsel had made the library possible and had developed it to a gratifying state of efficiency. The new building was largely due to her. Her earnest belief in the service to be rendered by a public library and her zeal in extending a knowledge of its value made her loss felt throughout the entire State.

## CENTERVILLE.

The Drake Public Library of Centerville suffered a great loss in the death of ex-Governor Francis M. Drake, who gave to the city of Centerville the Drake library building and provided for a generous purchase of books at the time of the occupancy of the building.

The library has recently been enriched by a gift from Dr. J. L. Sawyers, a son-in-law of General Drake, of \$300.00 to be expended in the purchase of classed books.

An increasing number of persons make use of the reference room. There are over 5,700 volumes in the library and the circulation for 1905 was 23,309.

## CENTRAL CITY.

The John C. Clegg Library has had a normal growth since the first report of the Library Commission was issued (1903) and now has over 1,700 volumes. The circulation of books for the year 1905 was 4,600.

## CHARITON.

The new library building in course of construction at last report has been completed at a total cost of \$11,490.00. Mr. Carnegie contributed \$11,000.00. The building was dedicated October 23, 1904.

A room in the basement has been turned over to the Lucas County Historical Society, and will be fitted up and maintained at its expense.

## CHARLES CITY.

The new Carnegie building for the public library was opened by a public reception November 24, 1904; no formal exercises were held. The building is attractive in appearance, being constructed of brick with stone trimmings and a foundation and front pillars of native boulders.

Miss Belle Caldwell became librarian in the summer of 1904 and has introduced modern records as rapidly as the regular work of the library would permit, a beginning in this work having been made by Miss Katharine Ellis, who preceded Miss Caldwell.

At the close of 1905, 5,500 volumes were reported, with a circulation of 30,905.

## CHEROKEE.

During the year 1902, Doctor Burlingame, mayor of Cherokee, wrote to Mr. Carnegie asking for a donation of ten thousand dollars for a library building. In January, 1903, a favorable reply having been received from Mr. Carnegie, the city council was asked to take the necessary steps to comply with the conditions made by the donor. After due time a site was secured and the Board of Library Trustees secured the services of F. E. Wetherell, of Des Moines, to draw plans and make specifications of a building to cost \$10,000. The contract was let on



August 30, 1904, and Mr. Carnegie was asked to increase the donation to \$12,000, which he consented to do. May 2, 1905, the library was formally dedicated and opened. The building is convenient and beautiful, and when the basement is completed provision will be made for club or lecture rooms.

With the larger work which the library hopes to do under the new conditions and with the longer hours during which the library is open, it seemed unwise to continue the plan of the trustees serving as librarian, which had been done without remuneration by the earnest women on the Board. Miss Jessie Swem was elected as librarian April 1, 1905.

The Board, which had formerly been composed entirely of women, now consists of seven of the former members with Mr. J. F. Mart and Mr. C. A. Stiles in place of Mrs. Burroughs and Mrs. Nicholson, whose terms expired. An advisory committee of three men served during the erection of the new building. The library reported 4,702 volumes at the close of 1905, and a circulation of 13,531.

#### CLARINDA.

In the winter of 1904 a meeting was called by a few citizens of Clarinda who were desirous of establishing a public library. A Library Association was formed and a membership committee and a book fund committee began active canvass of the city. Within less than a year a book fund of about \$1,500 was raised and December 1, 1905, the Association opened a public library of about 1,400 volumes free to the people of Clarinda. An attractive, well-lighted room was secured and Mrs. Clara B. Willis elected librarian.

The Secretary of the Library Commission aided in the preliminary work of installing modern records and Miss Edna M. Hawley was employed to prepare a dictionary card catalog.

In March, 1906, the question of a tax for the maintenance of the library was submitted to the people and the vote showed a large majority in favor of it. Miss Mary E. Berry and Mrs. Annie Loran of the High School, were untiring workers for the library. The Board consists of Hon. L. N. Lewis, president; Rev. W. T. Fisher, secretary; P. V. Hensleigh, Mrs. Annie Loran, John N. Miller, Miss Mary E. Berry, Mrs. O. H. Park, F. N. Tomlinson, Rev. J. N. Maclean.

#### CLINTON.

The library building was finished in June, 1904. Miss Belle Sweet was appointed librarian, from the Illinois State Library School, and with the aid of some of the interested ladies of the city and several assistants began the work of preparing for circulation the public school library of 6,000 volumes and a \$2,000 purchase of books. This work was accomplished to the extent that it was possible to open the library to the public on the 8th of November, 1904. On the 15th of April, 1905, Miss Sweet resigned and Miss Daisy I. Lutz, of the Nebraska Public Library Commission, was elected to the position of librarian. Much interest was shown in the library from the first day it was opened and the circulation steadily increased.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Walter I. Hayes, a trustee of the Board, \$705.50 was given by friends of the library for the purchase of books. Five hundred dollars of this sum was expended in the children's room for a catalog cabinet and 543 well-selected books. Among other large gifts is a collection of 570 books for circulation called the "Howe's library"; the Daughters of the American Revolution library of 80 volumes for reference, and many valuable sets of books and magazines from patrons.

Effort has been made by the librarian to bring the school and library into closer relationship. Teachers' cards are issued. The work of the children's room is separate from the main library and in charge of a special attendant. Two rooms on the second floor of the building have been furnished and are used by an historical and musical club of the city. The Ministers' Club and the County Medical Association hold their meetings in the building. The interest manifested in the library by the clubs, teachers and pupils has been gratifying.

A loan exhibition of pictures attracted many visitors to the library and at the time of the exhibit the library received a gift of a fine painting from Mr. Moulton, "The Eviction," by Gasperini, valued at \$1,500.

#### COLFAX.

An offer of \$5,000.00 was made by Mr. Andrew Carnegie in 1905 for the erection of a library building but it has not been possible for an agreement to be reached regarding a suitable site, and consequently the gift has not been accepted.

Miss Floretta Ogan resigned as librarian in the spring of 1905, and was succeeded by Miss Mary B. Woodworth, who has recently been succeeded by Miss Josephine E. Logsdon.

#### CORNING.

Growth and progress is shown in every department of the public library. A trained organizer was employed during the summer of 1905 to assist in installing a catalog. The walls were re-tinted and new shelving added. The reference department is being enlarged and strengthened and now offers better facilities for reference work than ever before. An effort is being made to complete the files of some of the important sets of periodicals. There are now between three and four thousand volumes in the library and the circulation is large.

#### COUNCIL BLUFFS.

The Free Public Library of Council Bluffs now occupies a handsome new building erected at a cost of \$70,000.00, the gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The dedication of the new building took place with appropriate ceremonies September 12, 1905.

The building is well located, fronting on the beautiful little park and having both front and side entrances. The interior is most attractive and convenient, providing for general supervision of the main floor,

but with sufficient seclusion for study. The children's room is amply equipped for the needs of the children and the increasing collection of books for them. A large auditorium on the second floor is provided for educational and other meetings that are related to the use of books. The color scheme in decoration and the furnishing all add to the pleasant impression of the building.

The library staff has been increased by the addition of Miss Erma Moore, of the Illinois Library School, as cataloger.

#### CRESO.

The Cresco Public Library had its beginning in a book shower held November 13, 1903, at which time 330 volumes were donated for the use of the library, and a board of trustees selected to take charge of the opening and management of the library. With the books obtained at this shower as a nucleus, and with such additions as were procured by further donations both of books and of funds with which books could be purchased, the library grew without any "visible means of support" until at the spring election in 1905, the city voted a public library tax as provided by law. At this time, the library had grown until there were 1,900 volumes upon its shelves, including 450 volumes of magazines. These were turned over to the Board of Trustees, appointed by the mayor, and the library is now in operation under the provisions of the State law providing for public libraries.

The Federation of Women's Clubs has taken a great interest in the library, and by means of lecture courses and other entertainments has raised the greater portion of the funds with which the library has been supplied.

The members of the Board are: Mrs. Mae L. Burgess, president; Carl W. Reed, secretary; W. L. Converse, Mary L. McHugh, Mrs. F. A. Knowles, Mrs. Irvine, E. A. Farnsworth, James Cutting and R. Woods. Mrs. Edith Morton is the librarian.

#### DAVENPORT.

In May, 1904, the Davenport Public Library was moved into its permanent home—a beautiful and impressive edifice, located in the central part of the city, conveniently arranged and perfectly adapted to the large work upon which the library has entered.

Besides endeavoring to build up a well-rounded collection by purchasing standard books on various subjects, the aim has been to make the library more efficient through purchases in special lines. The entire list of 1,000 novels recommended by Mr. John Cotton Dana was purchased.

A German collection was purchased when the new building was occupied and is being increased as rapidly as possible. This has done much in making the library useful to the large foreign constituency. Besides the German books for adults, the nucleus of a small juvenile German collection has been placed in the children's room. Special attention has been paid to books on technical subjects and it is gratifying to note the constant use of this class. A beginning has been made toward

a duplicate collection of standard authors in the best and most beautiful editions, to be used for reading and reference in the library only. A special collection of books and pamphlets by Davenport authors has been started. An invaluable collection of bound newspapers, including the early files of the Davenport Gazette, has been placed in our historic records room in cases with adjustable steel roller-shelves made especially for them.

The reference department with its standard reference books and bound magazines is used very largely. In addition to the regular daily requests and lists for debating societies, references have been prepared on all literary club topics.

The children's department has grown very rapidly. The interest and eagerness with which this part of the library is used is shown by the empty shelves which constant purchases are unable to fill. Picture bulletins and reading lists on special topics of interest are posted on the bulletin board. The story hour was started in July, 1905, and has been carried on with marked success.

A duplicate school collection has been started. As a beginning, the entire list of the "Children's Library" of 443 volumes, issued by the Cleveland Normal School and Cleveland Public Library, was purchased. The school collection will be increased year by year.

In February, 1905, Miss Freeman resigned her position as librarian and was succeeded by Miss Stella V. Seybold, formerly the librarian of the public library of Jacksonville, Illinois, who resigned in February, 1906. Miss Grace D. Rose, of the Buffalo (N. Y.) Public Library, has been elected as her successor.

#### DENISON.

The first gift for the new library, which was to be built upon the foundation of the old city library, was made by Mr. George W. Schee, of Primghar, Iowa, who gave \$1,000 for the purchase of books, continuing upon \$2,500 additional being raised by the citizens of Denison. The Friday Club, the pioneer woman's club of Denison, added two hundred dollars' worth of books. A site for the \$10,000 building offered by Mr. Carnegie was provided through the generosity of Mr. J. P. Miller, and later Mr. Carnegie gave \$2,500 for the completion of the building. The dedication took place August 10, 1904, and the interest manifested since has been most gratifying.

The basement was donated for the use of literary clubs, and the large auditorium has been furnished by the Federated Clubs at an expense of about \$1,000.

#### DES MOINES.

The public library has established a system of school libraries by which, working in conjunction with the Board of education and superintendents of schools, small libraries are placed in different school buildings of the city and issued by the teachers to the children for home reading. It is expected that this department will be enlarged as the income of the library may permit. The contract has been let for the



completion of the building and the large well-lighted northeast room of the basement will be fitted up for a children's room.

#### DE WITT.

In March, 1901, at the regular municipal election it was voted to establish and maintain a public library by taxation. Mr. C. E. Schlabach had, previous to this, donated over 300 valuable books from his private library and the women of De Witt had worked earnestly to provide books for the town. The library was opened as a free library April 7, 1902, with over 600 volumes, and the number of borrowers quickly increased from 145 to over 500. The library is located in a rented building on the main street and contains a collection of over 1,500 books. Miss Elsie F. Saxton is the librarian. The Board of Trustees consists of C. F. Kent, president; Miss Della Reilly, secretary; Miss Margaret Buchanan, Mrs. A. M. Price, Mrs. Robert Bourne, Mrs. J. G. Pearse, Ed Quigley, Wm. McKenney, T. J. Flynn.

#### DUBUQUE.

A perceptible growth of the library is shown by the increase in the use of the reference department. A number of valuable works of reference have been added and the entire collection rearranged more conveniently.

The most notable gift has been that of Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the installation of a steel book stack. This stack is not only a piece of unusually fine workmanship, adding beauty to the interior of the building, but it has supplied the much-needed book space.

The Hon. W. B. Allison has given the library his entire collection of Government publications, numbering about 6,000 volumes, besides many hundred pamphlets on finance. Such a gift is of inestimable value and has already proved of service to students.

The Medical Society has given many of its books and a Medical Club has been formed which gives regularly several medical periodicals.

Hon. O. P. Shiras has added some valuable oil paintings to the collection in the art room and through his generosity a picture collection for circulation has been started.

Many efforts have been made to add to the attractiveness of the children's room. The furniture has been rearranged and a low round table purchased and new shelving placed along the walls.

Each spring the members of the educational division of the Woman's Club has given the children a treat in its "Library Day" entertainment. In 1904 Miss Anna Jess told with great skill the story of King Arthur, using as illustration the picture of King Arthur by Mrs. L. C. Perkins. This picture was a gift to the children's room by the educational division. Also at the same time Mrs. Cooley gave through the educational division, a splendid reproduction of the Winged Mercury for the art room. In 1905 this same division gave the children a rare pleasure in a chalk talk by Miss Colby. The members of the division gave the children's room two plaster reproductions of the bambinos of Della Robbia.

The work with the schools in the outlying districts has gained steadily and is only limited by the lack of funds.

A deposit station has been established in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association.

#### EAGLE GROVE.

The library building, a gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, was dedicated with appropriate exercises September 15, 1903, the chief address being made by Governor Cummins. Since the removal to the new building the interest and use of the library has continued to increase in a gratifying manner.

#### EDDYVILLE.

The Eddyville Free Public Library was permanently established January 9, 1897. Two years previous to this, the city council purchased a few books and some furniture from the Christian Endeavor Society, this organization having started a small library which had been sustained by donations and subscriptions, but finally closed for want of funds. The library was made free to all of the citizens in the corporation and was conducted directly by the council, who, from time to time, set aside an amount of money for the purchase of books and other expenses. Thus was formed the nucleus of the Free Public Library. Two years later, it was turned over to the board of library trustees, and removed to the new city hall, which is furnished free of cost. Great pride is taken in the library, and it is doing good work, the books being greatly in demand.

#### ELDORA.

The citizens of Eldora have evidenced their pride and interest in the new library building by an increased patronage in every department.

The library is indebted to Mayor Ellis D. Robb for a valuable collection of over fifty autograph photographs of noted persons. These photographs were collected at the time of the opening of the new library building and through the courtesy of the city council were handsomely framed without expense to the library.

December 3, 1903, marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the library, which occasion was celebrated by an appropriate "birthday" program.

The following winter, a series of four free lectures was given at the library and was much appreciated by the people.

The rooms in the basement have been completed and are now devoted to the uses of the trustees, the women's clubs and the recently organized Hardin County Historical Society.

#### ESTHERVILLE.

The new Carnegie building costing \$10,000.00 was occupied by the library in the fall of 1904, and early in 1905 it was decided to adopt modern methods of classification and cataloging, and Miss Charlotte E. Goetsmann was secured to aid the librarian, Mrs. H. H. Davidson, in this work. Facility in using the library has been greatly increased by this means.

## FAIRFIELD.

The library is being classified by the Dewey system and an author card catalog is in process, the work being done by the librarian in addition to his regular duties. The collection of Government publications, which is one of the most complete in the State, contains a vast mine of information but is not as available as it might be, for want of more complete cataloging.

The Jefferson County Historical Association is encouraged by having the free use of a room in the building for its meetings. Women's clubs and other literary clubs and societies pay a small rental for rooms provided with heat and light.

## FOREST CITY.

The library has continued to grow in popularity and usefulness, and it became necessary to add new book cases to provide for the increasing collection of books. The walls have been tastefully tinted and a few new pictures added.

The Tourist Club has voted to expend a small sum annually for the benefit of the library and a "Library Day" program was given in October, 1905, when a set of Shakespeare was presented to the library.

## FORT DODGE.

The new Carnegie building was dedicated on the 15th day of October, 1903. The contract price of the building was \$36,915. Adding to this the valuation of the lots, which were donated, \$6,500, the expense of grading, laying of sidewalks, cost of bookstacks and furniture, the building, when completed, represented \$48,650. Of this sum, \$30,000 was the gift of Andrew Carnegie.

The library is the recipient of a gift of a fine portrait of Captain W. H. Johnston, painted by W. A. Reaser, a New York artist, formerly of Fort Dodge.

The meeting of the Iowa Library Association in October, 1905, held in the assembly room of the library, awakened much interest throughout the community and proved to be one of the best meetings in the history of the Association. The many friends of Captain Johnston in the Association seemed especially glad to visit the library, of which he was the librarian for so many years, and of which he is now president of the board of trustees.

## FORT MADISON.

The Cattermole Memorial Library has continued to add to its collection of books and expects soon to adopt the Dewey system of classification and a card catalog. A vacancy on the Board of Trustees, caused by the resignation of one of the members, has been filled by the appointment of Mrs. C. M. Cattermole, thus insuring active connection of one of the family with the library bearing the name.

## GLENWOOD.

After earnest work for the library covering a period of more than eleven years the women of Glenwood have reason to rejoice over the Carnegie library building which is nearing completion and provides the library with a permanent and handsome home of its own. Delays of various kinds have occurred since the offer of a building from Mr. Carnegie was made in 1903, but, the conditions of the offer of \$7,000.00 having been met, the building has become a reality. The library belonging to the Glenwood Woman's Club, consisting of nearly 1,500 volumes, has been turned over to the city.

## GRINNELL.

Since the previous report, the Grinnell Free Library has made some decided advancement in the way of facilities for usefulness, and in patronage. The most notable achievement has been the completion of the dictionary card catalog. Miss Fanny Duren of Eldora was secured in November, 1904, to complete the work which had been begun during the previous year, and the catalog was finished in February, 1905. All cards are either typewritten or printed (Library of Congress cards), and the resulting uniformity and clearness prove a decided advantage in quick reference. The daily use of the catalog proves beyond doubt the wisdom of the expenditure of time and money for this practically indispensable aid in library work.

In August, 1903, the two-book system was introduced. This increase of privileges appeals to students and teachers in school and college and to club women, and there is a noticeable gain in the percentage of class books loaned.

Besides the librarian, two assistants are employed, each of whom spends four hours a day in the library. Both of these assistants have attended the Iowa Summer Library School.

## HAMPTON.

Since the previous report, the erection of the Carnegie building has been completed. The building was ready for occupancy in October, 1904, but the board of trustees deemed it wise to defer the moving from the old rooms until July, 1905. By this delay, time was given for the raising, by public subscription, of funds to cover the expense of new furniture. At this time 600 volumes on various subjects were added to the collection of 4,000 volumes.

The popularity of the children's room is a source of gratification, while the reading and reference rooms are in constant use.

## HAWARDEN.

Since the last report was submitted, the library has made quiet but steady progress. Perhaps the greatest improvement noticed is the place it has come to occupy in the estimation of the citizens. Its reference books are used more and more, and the people are coming to consider



the library a valuable means of education and to be very proud of possessing as good a one.

There is need for more books, which it is hoped can be supplied more adequately in the future. The walls have been tinted, and a cement walk laid in front of the grounds.

#### HAWKEYE.

The population of this town being only 535 it is clearly impossible for an extensive advancement to be made by the library, but it continues to be a source of pride and usefulness to the people of Hawkeye.

#### INDEPENDENCE.

The Library has had the usual additions to the book collection, and on account of vacancies occurring on the board, two women have been for the first time appointed as trustees,—Mrs. P. G. Freeman and Miss Harriet Lake.

#### INDIANOLA.

On September 15, 1903, the contract for the erection of the Carnegie library building was let for \$10,640. This did not include finishing the basement. The building was completed for occupancy May, 1904, and on June 1st was opened to the public with appropriate exercises. Since that date Mr. Carnegie has given an additional \$2,000 for the completion of the basement.

The new building gives increased library facilities and advantages, being situated one block from the public square, one block from the new high school building, and two blocks from Simpson College.

#### IOWA CITY.

The library has grown steadily since the occupancy of the new building. The reference department has been increased by the purchase of a new encyclopaedia, atlas, and many volumes of bound magazines. From August 20th to November 1st, 1904, the library was closed, owing to the necessity of vacating the former rooms and awaiting the completion of the new building. On November 30, 1904, the new library building, a gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, was formally dedicated. This \$35,000 building occupies a beautiful corner in the heart of the city. The site of the building was a gift from the citizens.

Many private donations of books and valuable unbound magazines have been received from citizens, who take pride in their library and are ever anxious to assist in its advancement.

In 1905, Miss Adelaide C. Lloyd resigned as librarian and Miss Lorena N. Webber was elected as her successor.

A children's room has been furnished and equipped, and great interest manifested by the children, who are using it in constantly increasing numbers.

#### IOWA FALLS.

The library has made good progress since the previous report, there being a gratifying increase in the number of patrons and in the book circulation. A picture collection has been added, arranged by subject and artist, to loan to schools and clubs. Books from the State Traveling Library are still used to supplement the library's collection. Programs of the various clubs are kept on file and reference lists prepared of material bearing upon the subjects of study.

Graded lists of the books in the juvenile department modeled after the catalogue of the Cornege Library of Pittsburg have been prepared for the use of the schools and a typewritten copy furnished each teacher.

In May, 1903, the library moved into the new Carnegie-Ellsworth building, which is provided with the rooms on the main floor needed for the daily activities of the library, and with club room, furnace room and toilet rooms in the basement.

The children's room has been furnished with tables, chairs and low book cases by Mrs. Lewis E. Jones, one of the library trustees. A portrait of Mr. J. L. Farrington, president of the library board, has been presented to the library by the other members of the board.

#### JEFFERSON.

The Jefferson Public Library moved into its new quarters in the spring of 1904. Appropriate dedicatory exercises were held in the Baptist church on April 19th. The building committee succeeded in keeping the cost of the building within the \$10,000 donated by Mr. Carnegie, the completed building costing \$9,976. The building is heated by steam from the city water-works, two blocks distant. During the summer, the grounds were sodded, walks were laid and trees set out. A beautiful fountain, costing \$200, the gift of the ladies of the Friday Club, was placed on the grounds. The city supplies water, and it is kept running night and day, making the grounds present a most attractive appearance during the summer months.

The rooms in the basement of the building were given up to the women's clubs. Through the joint efforts of the Friday Club and Mothers' Union, these rooms have been furnished, and are used by them for their regular meetings.

Since our last report some valuable reference works, history, description and travel have been added to the library.

It is extremely gratifying to the trustees and librarian to know that there has been a steady decrease of about two per cent a year in the amount of fiction circulated since the opening of the library; this is noticeable not only in the amount, but in the quality of the fiction read.

In order to make the library of greater service, it was classified and cataloged by Miss Alice C. Mann in the fall of 1905.

#### KEOKUK.

On December 7, 1904, a fire occurred at the library building, in connection with the heating apparatus, which did considerable damage to two

rooms on the first floor, the library rooms escaping with but slight damage from smoke. The boiler was ruined and a new one was ordered and put in place, during which time the library was closed. While closed, a cork carpet was laid and the books and furniture cleaned, the library building being re-opened on January 19, 1905.

There has been a noticeable decrease in the percentage of fiction circulated, dropping almost five per cent in two years.

#### LAURENS.

A tax was voted for the support of a free public library March, 1903. An Association Library had been in existence for several years, having been fostered through the earnest efforts of the women of Laurens, the movement having begun in the Mothers' Club through the use of the State Traveling Library, the club women serving as librarians. The library is well patronized, being open Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, and an effort is being made to build up the collection of books as rapidly as possible.

The trustees are: Mrs. C. S. Allen, president; Mrs. M. A. McNee, Mrs. J. R. Hakes, Mrs. E. C. Strain, Mrs. R. N. McCombs, Mrs. Lona Taylor, Rev. Beckstrom, R. N. McCombs and Frank Paige.

#### LE MARS.

Since the previous report the library building has been completed and dedicated to use. The entire cost of grounds, building, furniture and decorations was about \$15,000, of which sum Mr. Carnegie donated \$12,500 and citizens of Le Mars the remainder.

The basement story is finished and furnished and is occupied by five literary clubs, Mower Post, G. A. R., and the Women's Relief Corps.

More than 5,000 volumes are on the shelves, classified under the Dewey system by Miss E. M. Hawley.

It has been the especial effort of the trustees to introduce only the most practical and useful methods of management and to institute hearty co-operation with the public schools of the city, the results of which are shown in the fact that less than 50 per cent of the circulation for the past two years has been from the fiction department.

#### LEON.

Through Senator M. F. Stookey, Mr. Carnegie offered Leon \$6,000 for a library building. The usual conditions were met, a fine site one block from the business center purchased for \$1,000, and the building is in process of erection. The women's clubs have volunteered assistance in furnishing the building, and inasmuch as the library owes its beginning to the efforts of the women of Leon their assistance will continue to be a factor in the growth of the library.

#### MANCHESTER.

The library is growing rather slowly on account of the small amount of money which is available for buying books. Some valuable donations

in books and magazines have been received. Among these were 130 bound volumes of Harper's and Atlantic Monthly. The reading rooms are well patronized and the teachers in the public schools are accorded special privileges in borrowing books for school use.

#### MAQUOKETA.

The library building was completed in the fall of 1903 at a total cost of about \$15,000. An entertainment, toward the success of which all the citizens worked faithfully, netted about \$700. This fund helped materially in furnishing the rooms. The dedicatory exercises were held on January 10, 1904. On January 20, 1904, the library was thrown open to the public. A contract was entered into between the library board and the Boardman Institute by which the Boardman Institute shall maintain the reference department. This department has many valuable and some rare books. Through the efforts of Mr. Harvey Reid, the Boardman president, valuable records of early Iowa history have been obtained.

During the year 1905 death has removed two members of the original board, Mrs. William Stevens, and later Mrs. Julia B. Dunham. Both of these women were earnest and interested workers, and did much toward the success of the early library movement.

#### MARENGO.

A communication was received from Mr. Andrew Carnegie March 28, 1903, tendering a donation of \$10,000 for a library building.

The question of establishing a Free Public Library, and its maintenance by the city, being submitted at an election, May 4, 1903, same was voted in the affirmative by a vote that was almost unanimous. The donation was therefore accepted on behalf of the city by the city council, a board being appointed by the mayor.

The board accepted the proposition tendered by E. N. Brown and located the library at the corner of Marengo avenue and Hilton street, and on July 6, 1904, the general contract for the erection of the building and other details was awarded to Courtney & Holt for \$9,000, plans having been prepared by Patton & Miller, Chicago. Special contracts for art glass, decorating, lighting fixtures, and architect's fees bring the total contracts up to \$1,000.

Subscriptions for the purchase of books, contributed by citizens, amounted to over \$1,500.

Mrs. Frank Cook who had been elected librarian having resigned, on account of ill health, Miss Pearl Hamilton was elected librarian.

The librarian was given a six weeks' leave of absence, that she might attend the Summer Library School at Iowa City.

#### MARION.

During the summer of 1903 the mayor of Marion appointed a board of library trustees, and provision was made for the erection of a library building under the conditions of Mr. Carnegie's donation.

By popular subscription, a very desirable site, 80x120 feet, was purchased at a cost of \$3,900.



Dieman & Fiske of Cedar Rapids were chosen as architects and the contract for the erection of the building was awarded to A. H. Connor of Cedar Rapids. The building was commenced in the summer of 1904 and was completed in the fall and winter of the same year and dedicated March 16, 1905. The dedicatory exercises were held in the M. E. church in the afternoon and a reception held in the library in the evening.

The building was completed at a cost of not more than \$10,000. In addition to the library and all of its equipment, there is an assembly room on the ground floor with a seating capacity of 200.

#### MARSHALLTOWN.

Since the occupancy of the new building an increase is seen in the use of books and the number of visitors to the library.

In October, 1903, Mrs. M. M. Battis resigned as librarian and was succeeded by Miss Ellen Howard Ray, who remained one year, and was succeeded by Mrs. Grace K. Haviland.

Mrs. Anna Negley Brown, a generous friend of the library, whose death occurred in a far off country in 1904, by her will donated to the library the sum of \$500 with directions to invest same in interest-bearing securities, the income to be used in the purchase of books.

Great care has been given to the selection and purchase of books, the desire being to strengthen the library in books of permanent worth. Mrs. Conover of Chicago has made an additional gift of furniture to the museum.

#### MASON CITY.

In the autumn of 1903 the plans were accepted for the new library building, and the building was completed in 1904. During the interim a room was occupied in a business block, and the work was consequently hampered for lack of room. The library was dedicated on the 10th of January, 1905. An informal reception was held in the afternoon, and in the evening the dedication exercises took place in the Wilson theater.

The building is of Bedford stone and cost about \$30,000, \$20,000 the gift of Andrew Carnegie, and \$10,000 donated by the citizens. The clubs also rendered material assistance.

The citizens show their appreciation of the new library by an increase of patronage. The location near the public schools enables the pupils to make use of the books for their reading and reference work.

#### MAXWELL.

The public library was established by popular vote at the spring election of 1901. A library board was appointed, as required by law, and a two-mill levy was asked and granted. In 1902 the first purchase of books was made, which has been added to each year as funds were available. At the present time there are over eight hundred volumes on the shelves. The books are classified according to the Dewey system and a card catalogue is contemplated. The library is in charge of Miss Effie Blosser and is open six days in the week.

The members of the present board are: P. Joor, president; Mayme Meade, secretary; R. C. Gibson, C. W. Kirk, Mrs. H. J. Garlock and John Olinger.

#### MISSOURI VALLEY.

Since the last report, the public library of Missouri Valley has made a steady advance in the consideration of the citizens. The members of the city council are interested and helpful and the patronage has increased.

When the property of the old Library Association was given to the city for the newly established public library, very many of the books had been in use for a dozen years. The increase in use resulted in a rapid destruction of this class. Some of these books have been rebound and many others destroyed. A large number of new books have been placed on the shelves and the library now contains about 2,400 volumes, excellent in condition and helpful and entertaining in quality.

#### MONTICELLO.

The library building was dedicated on Friday, May 27, 1904, at the Methodist Episcopal Church. The preceding afternoon and evening the library was open for the reception and inspection of the building and at 8:00 o'clock a program was given.

The library was organized by Miss Lavinia Steele of the Illinois State Library School. Miss Mary Marvin was elected librarian as soon as the library movement took definite form, and served as such until April 5, 1905. She was succeeded by Miss Ruth Cummings of the Illinois State Library School and later by Mrs. Amanda Hosford.

During the school year 1904-1905 the librarian made several visits to the schools and explained the decimal classification, the use of the books of reference and the card catalog. To aid in the work with the schools, the teachers are permitted to draw an unlimited number of books, subject to return upon call of the librarian.

The reference collection, while it is not large, is excellent and is frequently augmented by books borrowed from the Traveling Library at Des Moines.

Classed books are being purchased as frequently as funds permit. A former resident of Monticello, Mr. Wales of Dubuque, has donated many standard books. The library is especially strong in nature books for children and in U. S. history.

#### MOUNT PLEASANT.

The dedication of the Carnegie building took place on Washington's birthday, 1905, the exercises being held in the evening in the Methodist church. The children were received at the library in the afternoon, each child being presented with a medallion of George Washington. Many gifts were made to the library, one of the most appreciated being a picture for the children's room, purchased through voluntary contributions from the school children, and a "grandfather's clock."

The librarian, Mrs. Janes, was assisted during the spring of 1905 by

Miss M. Blanche Swan, librarian of the Iowa Wesleyan University, in classifying the library, and it is hoped to complete the shelf list later and make a card catalog.

#### MOUNT VERNON.

The Thirtieth General Assembly enacted a law providing for the joint maintenance and control of a public library by a city or town and an institution of learning located therein. Under this law, the city of Mount Vernon and Cornell College united in providing an adequate annual support to meet Mr. Carnegie's conditions for erecting a \$50,000 library building.

The building was dedicated September 13, 1905, by appropriate exercises, State Librarian Johnson Brigham and Bishop Spellmeyer of Cincinnati being the principal speakers.

Cornell College library contains over 26,000 volumes and has been an important factor in the work of the college under charge of the librarian, Miss May L. Fairbanks. The town of Mount Vernon has not heretofore had a public library, but by the provision of \$500 for annual maintenance has the use of the valuable collection of books in the college library.

The trustees are: Prof. J. E. Harlan, president; Prof. H. M. Kelly, Dr. A. Crawford, W. W. Platner, H. H. Rood, A. A. Bauman, E. Willix, J. B. Leigh and W. H. Norton.

#### MUSCATINE.

Since the library was formally dedicated the growth of the institution has been steady. It is noticed that the reference books are called for more than ever not only by the students of the public schools, but by the clubs and citizens generally. All possible encouragement is given along this line of work.

From the proceeds of a series of entertainments the Women's Federation presented to the library a handsome Blasius piano, which is a valuable addition to the auditorium. From the same source five beautiful pictures, all framed, were received and the statue of the "Winged Victory of Samothrace."

An exhibit of a collection of original drawings, illustrations for the publications of Charles Scribner & Sons, was the beginning of the work along that line. Since that time other exhibitions of pictures have been given.

The auditorium has been used for various meetings of an educational character, the most notable being the University Extension lectures. The school children were given a Japanese entertainment in May, 1905.

#### NASHUA.

The library has experienced a steady growth in all its branches, and great interest is manifested by the community. During the latter part of 1904 communications were sent to Andrew Carnegie asking for a \$5,000 donation with which to erect a library building, and early in 1905

Mr. Carnegie signified his willingness to contribute the amount. A subscription paper was circulated to raise funds with which to purchase a site, and nearly \$1,000 was subscribed by public spirited citizens, and a very desirable lot secured.

The building, which was dedicated January 10, 1906, is 51x38 feet, 18 feet in height, built of Lehigh pressed brick, with Bedford stone trimmings, and red tile roof. The interior is finished in oak with oak shelving, and furniture to match. The building cost exactly the amount of Mr. Carnegie's gift, not including tables, chairs and other movable furniture.

#### NEVADA.

The formal dedication of the library building took place May 10, 1906, following the completion of the second floor, the first floor having been in use for library purposes since 1901. The second floor provides a room for club purposes, a trustees' room, and a museum and historical room. Sliding doors are provided so that the rooms are adapted for special purposes.

Many donations have been made to the natural history collection, among these being a splendid elk and a specimen of a golden eagle. Other material had been in process of collection awaiting the completion of the building.

It is a matter of pride to the citizens that the building is a result of their own toil and sacrifices and that they now have a convenient and beautiful building that will compare favorably with any library building in the State.

#### NEWTON.

The library has made quiet and steady progress. The library building proves itself a model of comfort and convenience, and the ample grounds giving comparative seclusion from dust and noise make ideal conditions for reading and study.

There is a constant effort to strengthen the collection in all classes and to make it one of permanent value. While no large sum has been given to the book fund, it has received many helpful gifts which show the growing appreciation in which the library is held. The children's department is the object of especial care, and with the cooperation of the City Federation of Women's Clubs, much has been done to direct children's reading during the school vacations.

#### ODEBOLT.

On March 12, 1904, Andrew Carnegie offered \$4,000 for the erection of a building, under the usual conditions, and his offer was promptly accepted. Hon. W. W. Field, to whose generosity the library was already greatly indebted, donated a beautiful site, and plans were furnished by George W. Burkhead of Sioux City. The building contract was awarded to John S. Kitterman of Ida Grove, and on March 1st the doors were thrown open to the public.

The building has a front of 51 feet 4 inches and a depth of 29 feet.



The foundation at the grade line is of coursing stone, surmounted by Boone blue paving brick. The walls are of Lehigh cream pressed brick. All trimmings are of Bedford stone. The roof is of slate, with a half-pitch.

The interior is handsomely finished, the walls tinted and ceiling frescoed. The cost of the building was \$4,350.

It is known as the Field-Carnegie Library, in honor of the two men who were the principal contributors to it.

#### ONAWA.

Since the former report, the library has been tastefully papered and painted, has added several pieces of furniture, and book cases, and has been given a fine cork carpet.

There are now accessioned over 3,900 volumes, besides a number of State and U. S. publications, not accessioned, but valuable and accessible as reference works.

The circulation is increasing and the reference department is extensively used by the high school and upper grade pupils of the public school.

#### OSAGE.

A number of improvements have been made in the rooms, removing railing, thus giving patrons a much better opportunity to examine the books. There has been an increase in the circulation, and several hundred books have been sent to the bindery; hence the shelves present a better appearance. More periodicals have been added to the reading room.

#### OSKALOOSA.

The library building was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on Monday, September 7, 1903, and was thrown open to the public the following day.

The building is of Oskaloosa pressed brick, with terra cotta trimmings. The second story was completed later through the generosity of Mr. Carnegie, who gave \$2,000 additional for that purpose. This provides two attractive assembly rooms and museum.

Miss Priscilla Pickrell of the Illinois Library School, and later of the Iowa State Library, was the first librarian and continued in that position until April, 1905, when she resigned and was succeeded by the present librarian, Miss Marjorie Graves, also of the Illinois Library School and formerly in the Dubuque Public Library.

All departments show a steadily increasing use, the books in the reference department being in constant demand by the school and college students.

Since its opening the library has received many valuable gifts of books and magazines, a valuable autograph collection, pictures, and a Thorwaldsen frieze, all showing the interest taken by the townspeople.

#### OTTUMWA.

That the work of the Ottumwa Public Library is destined to progress is shown in its steady growth and increase of interest in all lines of its development. The library continues to be a source of increasing pride to the people, who constantly make use of its resources. Every effort has been made to make it attractive and homelike.

The borrowers now number 7,123. The circulation has reached 73,166 volumes. The stack room has been rearranged, to have the fiction on the third shelf from the top, instead of being congested in a few stacks, crowding people, and wearing out the floor. The fiction is on a line with the eye and in easier reach for both patrons and staff. People also have to see the classed books, even curiosity alone carrying the eye above and below the fiction line, thus encouraging a larger circulation of them.

The library is growing steadily in the acquisition of good books along all lines, the accessions numbering 20,808 volumes. In the purchase of books many have been added to the children's department to supply as far as possible the increased circulation. Special care has been taken to keep the classed books well balanced.

Cataloging has received careful and systematic attention and has progressed rapidly. The children's catalog is complete, the full set of Cleveland and Pittsburgh cards having been procured. Library of Congress cards are used for other catalogs.

The reference department has grown both in number of books and in popularity and has done good service. All topics requiring special research for clubs, schools, and various organizations have had careful attention. Clippings are increasing in number and are in constant demand. Valuable articles on all subjects are cut out and classified for reference. Pictures are also used in the same way, being arranged by artist and subject.

The Knights of Columbus have made a list of books in the library by Catholic authors, which has been distributed to Catholic families and has proved an incentive to increased reading among them.

The physicians are building up a medical department.

The Ottumwa Library Association has manifested great interest in the welfare of the library, by showing an appreciation of the work and co-operating in every way possible.

Friends and patrons have shown a generous spirit, books, magazines, plants, cut flowers, and pictures having been donated.

Books too worn to be of further service to the library, and many periodicals, have been sent to the Open Door Mission, City Prison and County Hospital.

Library stations are in successful operation at the East End, South Side, West End, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Open Door Mission, and Traction and Light Company. Much praise is due the tireless workers who make this advancement possible.

The success of our work with the schools has exceeded all expectation and is limited only by the supply of books. School rooms have become small libraries circulating books in schools on the outlying dis-

tricts where the homes are too far away for the children to come to the main library. The librarian has visited every school room in the city.

The high school freshman class comes to the library in groups of twelve to fourteen from 11 to 12 A.M. The students are taught the use of every part of the library.

The children's room has been changed to a beautiful south room on the first floor, furnished to suit the need. Puzzle maps and pictures, and stereographs have been added, which have aroused a surprising interest.

Librarian, Mary E. Downey.

#### PELLA.

In 1903 a Library Club was organized through the active efforts of Miss Sara Nollen and others, and by means of entertainments, candy sales and donations, a fund was provided to make a first purchase of books. Later the use of a small residence was granted the library free of rent. The Traveling Library was used to augment the small collection of books.

Early in 1905 the offer of \$10,000 from Mr. Carnegie for a library building and a site for the building and an additional amount for a book fund from one of the citizens, Miss Viersen, made it necessary for the people to vote upon the question of a maintenance tax for the library. The vote being in favor of the tax the mayor at once appointed the Board of Library Trustees, the offers were accepted and the erection of the building has begun.

In the meantime the library has gradually grown in number of volumes and in use, and the librarian, Miss Carolyn Van Vleet, attended the Summer School for Library Training at Iowa City in order to prepare for the enlarging work of the library.

The Trustees are: R. R. Beard, president; Mrs. P. H. Bousquet, Miss Martha Firth, Miss Fanny Smith, Rev. H. J. Pietenpol, Prof. H. H. Severn, C. N. Cole, P. G. Gaass, H. P. Scholte.

#### PERRY.

The library building was completed in August, 1904, and on September 15th it was opened to the public. The books which had been donated at a book shower and obtained from a former library association, and a small purchase were cataloged by Mrs. Nellie F. Sawyer of the Muscatine library, assisted by Miss Flora Bailey, the newly installed librarian, who had previously taken a course at the Iowa Summer Library School.

The building was not formally dedicated until December 10, 1904, at which time Governor Cummins gave the main address.

The \$10,000 given by Mr. Carnegie did not complete the building as regards furnishing and equipment and he was asked for a further gift. Through the urgent request made by Mrs. A. W. McPherson, president of the Board, an additional \$600.00 was obtained from him, and the library opened with 1,010 volumes.

The patrons of the library show an increased interest as time goes on and new readers are being added continually. An especially popular place is the children's room.

The various women's clubs have one of the rooms of the library for their meeting place.

#### ROCK RAPIDS.

The library has continued to add to the collection of books as rapidly as funds permit. The need of more room is realized by the Board, in order that a reading room may be made a feature of the library, and plans have been under consideration for some such enlargement. The small building owned by the library continues to be a center of interest and usefulness to the young people of Rock Rapids.

#### SARBORN.

The library has had a steady, quiet growth and there are now about one thousand carefully selected books on the shelves. The library now has more commodious quarters in the Ellis Block.

The women of the Twentieth Century Club acted as librarians without pay until May 1, 1904, when Miss Mame Johnson was engaged as regular librarian. She felt a personal interest and gave her best efforts to the work. The library sustained a great loss in her death in October, 1904. Miss Zaidee McCulloch, who had given considerable time to the library, was elected to fill the vacancy.

#### SHELDON.

In the spring of 1906 Mr. Carnegie offered \$10,000 for a library building for Sheldon, and steps were at once taken to provide for the purchase of a lot, the maintenance tax being already provided. The citizens contributed generously to the fund, a site is selected and plans are now being prepared for the erection of the building.

#### SHENANDOAH.

The \$10,000 Carnegie library building which is conveniently arranged with the usual rooms for the activities of the library, was dedicated August 1, 1905.

Miss M. Berdena Jay was selected as librarian, and attended the Iowa Summer Library School.

A carefully selected list of over 1,600 books were ready for circulation at the opening of the building, the classifying, cataloging, etc., being done gratuitously for the library by Miss Mabel C. Willard, formerly of the Wellesley College Library, but at that time temporarily residing in Shenandoah, who, with her cousin, Miss Alice Priest, then a member of the Board and book committee, gave careful thought to the selection of books. There having been no free collection of books for public use the library is greatly appreciated and the interest has steadily increased since the opening of the library.



## SIOUX CITY.

The institution has made few changes except in the line of a constant and steady growth, and both circulation of books and reference use of books and rooms have increased.

The death of Judge G. W. Wakefield, president of the Board of Trustees since its organization, and of John H. Charles, one of the first members of the Board, and the resignation of Mrs. Strange and Mr. Williams, have made important changes in the personnel of the Board.

Judge Wakefield had much to do with the framing of the present library laws of the State of Iowa and was always a firm believer in the educational value of libraries to the commonwealth. He had a definite plan for the development of the Sioux City Library. Always quiet and utterly lacking in ostentation, one had to be associated with him to know how much force of intellect and character were behind the quiet manner.

## SPENCER.

The new Carnegie library building was opened to the public March 6, 1905, the books having been classified by the Dewey system and a card catalog having been made by the librarian, Miss Caroline Langworthy. Miss Langworthy took charge of the library several months before the removal to the new building in order that it might be reorganized before the opening.

The attractive \$10,000 building is an ornament to the town and the citizens of the town supported the Trustees in their efforts to provide interior equipment and furnishings in harmony with the building. Various organizations contributed to the furnishing, including the P. E. O. Society, Village Improvement Society, Rathbone Sisters' and Woman's Club. Plants, pictures, busts, and books were also contributed. A good collection of reference books is provided, the books being used freely by students from the high school and business college.

Miss Langworthy resigned as librarian in the fall of 1905 and was succeeded by Miss Annie L. Doble, who attended the Iowa Summer Library School at the University.

## SPIRIT LAKE.

In the summer of 1904 the people voted in favor of a municipal tax for the maintenance of a free public library. Previous to this, in 1901, a Civic Improvement Association had been organized by a group of women, Mrs. E. R. Sully being president and Mrs. A. F. Merrill, secretary. A rest room for farmers' families and other visitors to the town was fitted up and the Traveling Library was used and later a few books were donated and purchased. These served as the nucleus for the free public library, being about 300 volumes.

An offer was made by Mr. Carnegie in 1905 to erect a library building to cost \$8,000, on the usual conditions, but the difficulty of providing a suitable lot has made it impossible up to this time to comply with

the conditions. The Trustees are: W. T. Davidson, president; Rey, E. W. Brown, secretary; V. A. Arnold, E. P. Atkins, Mrs. S. Keiser, Mrs. W. C. Booth, Mrs. W. F. Carlton and Mrs. E. R. Sully. Librarian, Miss Minnie Stowe.

## STORM LAKE.

A desire on the part of many citizens had existed for some time to have a public library, and therefore in 1903 a communication was sent to Mr. Carnegie asking for the gift of a library building, Buena Vista College being also interested in the request. A reply was received expressing his willingness to provide a suitable building to cost \$10,000 on the usual conditions, consequently it became necessary to submit the question of a tax for the maintenance of the library to a vote of the people, and at the spring election, March 28, 1904, the vote was favorable for the library tax. Many delays were encountered in beginning the erection of the building. A centrally located lot opposite the court house was secured and plans were prepared which should include provision for a rest room for farmers' families. The club women have been active in providing funds for the purchase of books, and entertainments were given for this purpose.

Miss Ethelyn Bailie has been elected librarian and during her studies at the State University during the winter of 1905-6, was also gaining practical knowledge of library details in the Iowa City public library. About 1,000 volumes have been purchased and are being prepared by Miss Bailie who will have the active assistance of the State organizer in the fall.

The library trustees are: S. C. Bradford, president; Mrs. George Wedgewood, secretary; Mrs. W. C. Kline, Mrs. F. F. Faville, George Witter, Louis Henne, Robert Blakely, H. Steffin, Guy Malbone.

## STUART.

The library continues to be well patronized and gifts of books have been received from societies and individuals, the Congregational Church presenting their Sunday school library, thus adding many volumes to the library. The hope is indulged in that Mr. Carnegie may be induced to provide money for the erection of a library building.

## TAMA.

The women of Tama had for many years maintained a public library, the Federation of Women's Clubs of Tama having been formed for the purpose of establishing and supporting such a library. The collection of books increased rapidly and were used and appreciated by the residents. Early in 1904 a proposition was received from Mr. Carnegie offering to erect a library building to cost \$7,500 upon the usual conditions regarding lot and maintenance. It became necessary to vote upon the question of levying a library tax in order to provide for the maintenance and at the same time the Woman's Club offered to turn over to the city their library consisting of about 1,500 volumes, which they

had been collecting for several years. The vote at the 1904 spring election was favorable, and therefore the offer of the Woman's Club and Mr. Carnegie were accepted. After many delays the building is well under way and will be occupied by the end of 1906.

The Trustees are: John E. Gould, president; Mrs. J. L. Bracken, secretary; Frank H. Arb, W. E. Fowler, Mrs. E. E. Dalley, M. H. Hosten, Mrs. B. L. Clutier, Charles J. Wonsler. Librarian, Miss Blanche Stewart.

#### TIPTON.

The Free Public Library of Tipton has occupied the new building since December 5, 1903. It was dedicated with appropriate exercises July 16, 1904. Two members of the State Library Commission were present, Mrs. D. W. Norris and Mr. Johnson Brigham, also the Secretary, Miss Tyler, and the students of the Library Summer School. The building has been found entirely satisfactory, pleasant in its appointments and perfectly convenient. The donation of the handsome furniture for the general reading room by the Woman's Club adds much to the appearance of the library. The completion of the room in the basement, to be used as an auditorium, is greatly desired and the club is working to that end. So far all funds at the disposal of the Library Board have been used on the grounds and the small park is growing into an attractive place.

Bringing the library away from the center of the town affected the circulation of books somewhat, but the use of both the reading and reference room has increased. A good deal has been done towards collecting volumes of magazines that are indexed in Poole and Reader's Guide.

Study club programs are filed at the library and the State Traveling Library is a great aid in supplying material for the work of the clubs. Talks on the use of the reference books and the location of books in the library have been given by the librarian to the pupils of the eighth grade and high school. The pupils come to the library in groups of twenty-five, accompanied by a teacher.

An accident to the heating plant caused the library to be closed the month of December, 1904.

The children's room is one of the most attractive places in the library. It is fitted up with round tables and low chairs, gifts from the Woman's Club. A gift of Lucy Fitch Perkins' "Mother Goose" pictures for this room was received from the class of 1904 of the Iowa Library Summer School.

The library has enjoyed a gift of a beautiful flag from Mrs. S. F. Gun-solus, and many books and unbound magazines have been donated.

#### VINTON.

The Carnegie building of the Vinton library was formally dedicated August 25, 1904, the dedicatory address being made by President A. B. Storms of the Iowa State College at Ames. An additional amount of \$2,500 was given by Mr. Carnegie for the completion of the building in addition to the \$10,000 formerly given. One thousand dollars each were given by George Horredge and Mrs. Virginia Gay for the purchase of

books. Especial attention has been given to building up a strong collection of books on U. S. history and with the larger book fund provided by the gifts, the library has been materially strengthened in all classes of books.

#### WASHINGTON.

The work of the library has moved along the lines which have been pursued since occupying the Chilcote building. Work with schools and clubs has increased and a very general use of the library is made by the people of Washington.

#### WATERLOO.

As in so many cases, Waterloo Public Library owes a debt of gratitude to the progressive women of the city. It was first brought into existence by the efforts of the Ladies' Literary Society, and struggled through many years as a subscription library, until it was established as a free institution by municipal vote in the spring of 1897 and opened in September of that year in two divisions for the accommodation of patrons on the east and west banks of the Cedar river. Although operating under the same board of trustees, the two branches have been somewhat independent in their administration, though co-operating in every way in their service to the public.

During the eight years in which the library has been open as a free institution, its growth has been very gratifying to its friends and supporters, with increasing demands upon its resources. There were 3,555 books on the day of the opening; in the next five years the gain doubled the number of volumes, and a healthy growth is maintained each year.

In 1903, negotiations were opened for a gift from Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The original sum asked was \$35,000, but in February, 1905, \$45,000 was granted and an agreement entered into for two buildings, the amount donated being divided in proportion to the taxes levied on the respective sides of the river. By this arrangement, the amounts were \$24,390 east, and \$20,610 west. The sites were donated by the city and chosen with especial reference to the high schools.

The buildings were dedicated February 23, 1906, with appropriate exercises for the children in the afternoon at each of the buildings and the general program in the evening. Waterloo has the unique distinction of being the only city in the State possessing two Carnegie public library buildings, and the adjustment of the funds for the buildings to meet the wants of the east and west sides seems to meet the approval of the citizens of Waterloo.

#### WAVERLY.

The Carnegie building was opened to the public January 26, 1905. It is a one story building with finished basement, built of pressed brick with cut Bedford stone trimmings. The interior is commodious, with especially pleasing decorations and furnishings. The books are classified according to the Dewey decimal system and dictionary card catalogue is in use. The reference collection has had many valuable additions, the



board of trustees believing that money expended for this class of books is well invested.

#### WEBSTER CITY.

The chief event in the history of the Kendall Young Library since 1903 is the erection of the handsome library building, for which provision was made in Mr. Young's bequest.

The building was dedicated September 20, 1905, with appropriate exercises, there being a large attendance of the early friends of Mr. Young. The building cost \$50,000 and is of fireproof construction, this being one of the stipulations of the bequest. It is substantial and dignified in exterior appearance and the interior is particularly pleasing, giving the impression of richness and good taste in its adornment.

This is the only endowed library in the State, no tax being required from the city for its maintenance. The income from the \$200,000 endowment is used for the support of the library. Rooms are provided in the building for the valuable and growing art library begun by Mrs. Young and also for the other valuable special collections that have been presented to the library.

#### WEST BRANCH.

On October 22, 1901, a meeting of representatives from the young people's societies of the various churches met to organize a Young People's Union in West Branch. A good citizenship committee was elected and this committee decided that the town's greatest need was a public library. A canvass of the town was made to secure literature, and one hundred and fifty books were secured, besides magazines for the reading table. Three good rooms were secured and Mr. Ross Stratton was elected librarian. The expenses were met by subscription and a small charge for the use of books. The first year \$211.86 was raised mostly by socials, suppers, etc. In 1903 the "Spinster's Return" was given, which netted \$145, which was expended in books.

In the fall of 1903 one of the public spirited citizens, Mrs. Hulda Enlow, informed the city council that she would donate to the town a library building if the town would vote the necessary tax for its support. This was done, and in July, 1904, the library was moved to the new building, which had been erected at an expense of \$2,000. September 30th the dedicatory exercises were held, the citizens expressing their appreciation of Mrs. Enslow's generous gift. The Young People's Union donated their books and magazines and are still giving what aid they can.

The library board is composed of C. H. Hathaway, president; S. H. Mott, vice-president; G. H. Hoover, secretary; O. L. Townsend, Dr. C. J. Leech, A. C. Hunter, E. L. Hollingsworth, Miss Cora Varney and Miss Bertha Armstrong.

#### WEST LIBERTY.

February 5, 1904, Mayor J. E. McIntosh received the good news that Andrew Carnegie would donate \$7,500 for a library building, if the citizens would contribute the money necessary to procure a suitable site. A

committee was at once appointed, and soon subscriptions to the amount of \$2,100 were secured for the purpose. A building committee, composed of A. H. McClun, chairman; Mayor J. E. McIntosh, secretary; I. A. Nichols, treasurer; H. B. Waters, W. W. McClun, G. A. Moore and H. W. Hughes, was appointed. The work, which was begun July 24th, was rapidly pushed forward and on December 29, 1904, the library was installed in its new home. Dedicatory exercises were held January 12, 1905, at which great throngs of citizens and visitors were present. Addresses were made by President H. W. Hughes of the library board, Chairman A. H. McClun of the building committee, Mayor J. E. McIntosh, and President George E. MacLean of the State University.

The building is neat and substantial and is considered to be exceptionally well planned. The foundation is of stone, the walls of St. Louis mottled brick, hydraulic pressed, with Bedford stone trimmings. The interior wood work is of mission oak, the floors are covered with cork carpet, and the walls are tastefully frescoed. The building is heated by furnace and lighted by electricity. Many visitors are attracted to the new library and it has been made the recipient of liberal gifts of books.

The connection between the library and the public schools is being made as close as possible, and reading matter for the children is provided with especial care.

During December, 1904, a "Novgorod Fair" was held for the benefit of the library, in one of the public halls, under the management of a committee of ladies consisting of Mrs. E. F. Schall, chairman; Miss Ora B. Nichols, Mrs. W. S. Luse, Mrs. W. M. Long, and Miss Lillian Boatman. Nine ladies' organizations assisted, and the net result was \$500 for the book fund.

#### WINTERSET.

The increasing number of visitors and the addition of books to the library made it necessary to face the question of a larger building, and the problem was solved by the offer of \$10,000 from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, in February, 1904, for a library building. During March, a desirable site upon which to build the library was donated by S. G. Bevington and Mrs. Alexander of Winterset. The building was completed and accepted May 31, 1905. On June 16, 1905, it was formally opened.

After moving into the present building, the library was classified and cataloged and the library has entered upon a new era of interest and utility.